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Japan

Reportage on Hosokawa's Activities at UN Session

'Text' of UN Address

OW2709223993 Tokyo KYODO in English 2202 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] New York, Sept. 27 KYODO—The following is the full text of Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's speech at the United Nations General Assembly on Monday [27 September].

Mr. President,

Mr. Secretary-General,

Ladies and gentlemen:

I would like first of all to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you, Mr. President, who also serve as Guyana's ambassador to Japan, on your election last week to the presidency of this session of the General Assembly. Let me also express my deep appreciation to the previous president, Mr. Ganev, for his achievements during the past year, particularly in pursuing General Assembly reforms.

I want to take this opportunity to commend Secretary-General Butrus-Ghali for his selfless devotion to the cause of global peace, and for his bold efforts toward U.N. reform.

And finally, I warmly welcome the representatives of the six new member states that have joined the United Nations over the past year.

Mr. President,

In Japan, the reins of government recently changed hands for the first time in thirty-eight years. The coalition government that emerged has appointed me prime minister. Political changes in Japan are part of the dramatic changes in the international community since the end of the East-West confrontation. The post-cold war era has opened not just a new page, but a whole new chapter in Japanese politics. This means an era of basic reform in three main areas, namely political, economic, and administrative reforms. I believe these reforms are vital in strengthening Japan's bonds with the international community.

As I devote my attention and energy to these domestic reforms, I have come to the United Nations General Assembly on my first official visit abroad. I have done so because Japan believes that the United Nations has a crucial role to play in the maintenance of international peace and security. I also wished personally to convey Japan's determination to contribute both financially and in terms of personnel to various U.N. efforts.

Further, I wish to state again that Japan continues to feel a sense of remorse over its past actions, and that it is firmly resolved to make further contributions to the goals of world peace and prosperity.

As for the current situation in Russia, Japan continues to support President Yeltsin in his reform efforts. Japan strongly hopes that a political environment which reflects the will of the Russian people will soon be created, and that the reforms will be further promoted.

(Issues Regarding the Fulfillment of the United Nations' Primary Objective)

Mr. President,

Today, the primary objective of the United Nations and its member states is to establish world peace on the basis of the universal principles of freedom, democracy, and respect for human rights.

There are four areas in which the international community must direct its greatest efforts in pursuit of this objective.

(Disarmament and Non-proliferation)

I shall begin with the issue of disarmament.

The nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is the centerpiece of efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. I wish to affirm that Japan supports the indefinite extension of that treaty beyond 1995. It is critically important that countries which have not yet acceded to the treaty will do so to enhance its universality. At the same time, the indefinite extension of the NPT should not mean to perpetuate the possession of nuclear weapons by the nuclear weapon states.

Japan thus welcomes the progress made toward nuclear disarmament by the United States and Russia, and emphasizes that all nuclear weapon states must work in earnest to achieve further progress in nuclear disarmament. We hail the decision to commence substantive negotiations aimed at a comprehensive nuclear test ban. For its part, Japan will work actively to help reduce world stockpiles of nuclear weapons. For example, we are ready to assist in the dismantling of nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union. We also strongly urge North Korea to dispel international concern about its development of nuclear weapons by, for example, fully implementing the safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

On the transfer of conventional arms, the effective implementation of the U.N. register of conventional arms is essential. I strongly urge all nations to participate in this endeavor. In extending its official development assistance, Japan continues to pay full attention to such trends as military expenditures in recipient nations.

(The Prevention of Conflicts and the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes)

The second point I wish to make is the importance of diplomatic efforts in the prevention of conflicts.

The value of regional security arrangements and bilateral or multilateral political and security dialogue is undeniable in preventing or settling armed conflicts.

In this connection, I was deeply moved by and heartily welcome the historic signing of the declaration of principles of Palestinian interim self-government by the Israelis and the Palestinians. I pay sincere tribute to their political leaders for taking this courageous step. It is essential that the international community support this agreement actively and promptly, in order to realize peace in the region. Japan will continue to play a constructive role in the multilateral negotiations that are part of the peace process. I am pleased, on this occasion, to announce Japan's intention to extend about 200 million dollars in assistance to the Palestinians over the coming two years. This assistance will include grant aid for food and medicine and concessional loans for infrastructure.

Humanitarian considerations, particularly respect for human rights, are inseparable from the issue of peace. Where there is war, human rights are often neglected. Conversely, in countries where respect for human rights has been firmly established, hostilities are less likely to break out. Japan must actively contribute to the solution of humanitarian problems. I would like to see my country-men and -women roll up their sleeves and work side by side with people from many other countries, whenever and wherever humanitarian activities are called for.

(Economic Development)

The third area of focus is economic development as a foundation for peace-building.

Today, the "market economy" has become common language in most nations of the world, including many of the former socialist states. The development of the global economy based on principles of market economy should be urgently promoted. Japan and other industrialized nations must provide support to developing countries in their development efforts, as well as former socialist countries in their political and economic reform efforts. It goes without saying that assistance to countries in transition must not come at the expense of aid to developing countries.

Already the world's top donor of official development assistance in absolute terms, Japan recently established its fifth medium-term target to further expand such assistance. Japan intends to provide official development assistance totaling between 70 and 75 billion dollars over the five-year period beginning 1993.

As part of its aid efforts, two weeks ago Japan hosted in Tokyo the third Mongolia Assistance Group meeting. Next week, in cooperation with the United Nations, we will hold the international conference on African development in Tokyo.

(Addressing Global Issues)

The fourth item I would like to raise concerns global issues such as the environment and population.

The urgent need to solve the problems of the global environment cannot be overemphasized. Japan is willing to assume a leading role in international efforts to tackle environmental problems. In so doing, we will draw upon the experience and know-how we have gained in overcoming serious pollution problems at home. Not only is Japan developing new technologies for environmental protection, it is taking the lead in transferring such technologies to developing countries through the International Environmental Technology Centre of the UNEP [United Nations Environment Program], which was set up in Japan last year. At the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), Japan pledged approximately 7 to 7.7 billion dollars in environment-related official development assistance over the five years beginning 1992. In fact, Japan has already implemented more than one-fourth of that amount.

Population problems are often a cause of poverty and famine. Solving these problems is therefore crucial to the goal of sustainable development, and will require a broad-based approach including education and public information efforts. With these thoughts in mind, Japan will sponsor a meeting of eminent persons on population and development next January, prior to the international conference on population and development to be held in Cairo next year.

(Reform Efforts Within the U.N.)

Mr. President,

The year 1995 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. Since the birth of this organization immediately following World War II, the international climate has changed dramatically. In the meantime, the UN membership has grown from 51 states in 1945 to the present 184.

Today, the international community is placing ever higher expectations on the United Nations. But serious reform efforts are necessary if the United Nations is to respond to these expectations and meet the new demands awaiting us at the threshold of the next century.

I would like to comment on three specific areas in which reforms are necessary: namely, peace-keeping, the structure of the Security Council, and U.N. administration and finance.

(Peace-Keeping Operations)

Last year, Japan enacted the International Peace Cooperation Law, enabling it to contribute personnel to U.N. peace-keeping operations. Since then, it has dispatched Japanese personnel to Angola, Cambodia, and Mozambique. Japan intends to continue to promote such cooperation in the future.

Among the recent UN peace-keeping operations, the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) stands out as a major achievement. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep respect for the efforts of UNTAC personnel and all the countries concerned. The success of the operation in Cambodia owes much to the comprehensive framework for peace that was put in place and the support it received from the international community. I am convinced that its experience in Cambodia will provide the United Nations with useful insights for its future activities.

Ensuring the security of the personnel engaged in U.N. peace-keeping operations is a task of high priority to the international community, and I hope this issue will be the subject of thorough debate in the current General Assembly. Other issues demanding our attention are the need to determine a so-called "sunset" for each peace-keeping operation, to evaluate each operation properly, and to review strictly the activities of an existing operation in deciding whether to extend its mandate. Japan also strongly hopes that the peace-keeping reserve fund, which was established last year, will be fully funded and used effectively.

(Restructuring the Security Council)

The sharp increase in the number of regional conflicts has meant a dramatic expansion of the role of the Security Council. Accordingly, it is necessary that the functions of the Council, which has primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, be strengthened. It is important that those countries having both the will and the adequate capacity to contribute to world prosperity and stability be actively engaged in that effort. The views submitted by many member states, including our own, in response to a General Assembly resolution on this subject last year generally indicate the need to expand the membership of the Security Council, while ensuring that its effectiveness is maintained. Japan intends to participate constructively in the discussions on Security Council reform.

(Administrative and Financial Issues)

Today the United Nations finds itself in extremely serious financial straits. In particular, the rapid expansion of peace-keeping operations has made it increasingly difficult for this organization to meet its financial needs promptly. Without adequate financial resources, the United Nations would be powerless to engage in any activity, no matter how meaningful it may be. I would like to remind all U.N. member states of how important it is that they face this reality and fulfill their obligations.

At the same time, I note with concern the frequent allegations of inefficiency or wastefulness at the United Nations. I hope the United Nations will make utmost efforts to meet the need for greater financial discipline and effective budgetary control.

(Summary)

Japan is prepared to do all it can to discharge its responsibilities in the United Nations reformed with the previous three points taken into account.

(Closing Remarks)

Mr. President,

When the U.N.'s forerunner, the League of Nations, was established in 1920, the renowned Japanese educator, Dr. Inazo Nitobe, was appointed as one of its deputy secretaries-general. Dr. Nitobe had sought to introduce Japan's philosophical traditions to the world and remarked that the Japanese place great value on moral principles.

I would like to conclude my address by offering a quote from one of Dr. Nitobe's lectures which reflects my own view on the evolving bonds between Japan and the international community:

"An international mind is not the antonym of a national mind... The international mind is an expansion of the national, just as philanthropy or charity...should begin at home."

Thank you.

Hosokawa, Clinton Brief Media

OW2709231893 Tokyo KYODO in English 2227 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] New York, Sept. 27 KYODO—U.S. President Bill Clinton said Monday he was heartened by Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's commitment to change in Japan to help spur the world economy and improve Japan-U.S. relations. But Clinton said he and the new Japanese leader recognize the need for the two countries to make progress in trade problems.

"It is critical in this new era that we get this relationship right," the president said at a brief news conference with Hosokawa. "We must make significant progress regarding our bilateral trade," he said.

Clinton said the United States welcomes Japan's 6 trillion yen economic stimulus package, characterizing the new program as "a beneficial step" for bilateral economic relations and the global economy.

Hosokawa renewed his pledges to carry out political, economic and administrative reforms, which he said would be beneficial not only for Japan but the world. He said Japan will "do its best" to produce results from bilateral negotiations on a new economic framework agreement.

Clinton said he and Hosokawa "share a common sense of urgency to successfully conclude the Uruguay round by December 15."

At a separate news conference, Hosokawa declined to elaborate on what Japan would do in connection with overseas demands to open its rice market to imports. He also declined to comment on what Clinton called "options" that the Japanese Government May pursue to stimulate domestic demand and help world economic growth.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen for one has suggested that Hosokawa's coalition government implement a major income tax cut as an additional stimulus measure.

Hosokawa and Clinton held their hour-long meeting after addressing the United Nations General Assembly. The prime minister said they discussed a wide range of issues, including Russia, China, the Middle East and North Korea.

Clinton said he and Hosokawa, who are both former governors, were elected with a "mandate for change."

When asked about having met two Japanese prime ministers in less than three months, Clinton said, "How can I answer that question without getting in trouble in Japan?"

He said his administration is in favor of granting both Japan and Germany permanent membership on the U.N. Security Council.

Outcome of Talks With Clinton

OW2809003293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0013 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] New York, Sept. 27 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Monday [27 September] he and U.S. President Bill Clinton reaffirmed their resolve to carry out reforms and discussed a broad array of bilateral and international issues in their first summit meeting.

In what he termed a "very meaningful" exchange of views, Hosokawa told a news conference that they touched on bilateral political and economic relations as well as recent developments in Russia, China and the Korean peninsula. But he said they did not discuss the exchange rate as a measure to correct the trade imbalance. He also said his coalition government has not made any decision regarding an income tax cut.

He said he explained to Clinton the political, economic and administrative reforms his cabinet has pledged to implement, including an overhaul of the election system and cutting back the central government's bureaucratic powers. He said he stressed his cabinet's historic role as the first Japanese Government to seriously tackle economic deregulation.

Hosokawa said they confirmed they will continue to seek "a favorable balance" in bilateral relations and that they consider the revival of the sluggish world economy a "common mission."

Clinton reportedly did not make any concrete demands concerning Japan's still swelling trade surplus or better market access for U.S. companies, but urged Hosokawa that Tokyo do its utmost to correct the trade imbalance and that the new framework agreement on trade he reached with former Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in July be taken as a basis and fully promoted.

Acknowledging that trade frictions and other economic issues rank top of the bilateral agenda, Hosokawa said he promised to follow the road set by the framework agreement.

While terming a successful conclusion of the Uruguay round under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) by the December 15 deadline "extremely important" for the sake of world economy, Hosokawa added, however, that the liberalization of the Japanese rice market remained a "difficult problem."

Concerning Japan's bid for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council, for which Clinton renewed his support during a joint news conference, Hosokawa said things should be left to their "natural course." Not only a restructuring of the Security Council but also overall reform of the world body must be deliberated, he said.

Hosokawa said he chose the U.N. General Assembly session, where he delivered a speech earlier in the day, as the venue for his first overseas engagement as prime minister to explain Japan's stance toward the world body, which plays an increasingly important role following the end of the Cold War. He said that in talks with U.N. General Secretary Butrus Butrus-Ghali, he discussed U.N. reform and peacekeeping operations, reaffirming Japan's readiness to further contribute funds and personnel.

Hosokawa, Clinton See 'Eye to Eye'

OW2809014893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0052 GMT 28 Sep 93

[By Antonio Kamiya]

[Text] New York, Sept. 27 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and U.S. President Bill Clinton, in a public display of mutual faith and admiration, vowed Monday to resolve pending bilateral trade disputes under a new framework trade accord. The two leaders, who met for the first time since Hosokawa came to office two months ago, gave ringing tributes to each other for what Clinton described as a new mandate for change in their respective countries.

"I feel a great deal of respect and affinity for the prime minister," Clinton told reporters after the two men emerged from a 90-minute meeting.

Clinton made a point of reminding reporters that both he and Hosokawa were former governors and elected "with a mandate for change." Hosokawa readily agreed.

"We really saw eye to eye on all issues," he later said at a separate news conference before heading back to Japan.

Both Clinton and Hosokawa were in New York to address the United Nations General Assembly.

Clinton told reporters he hopes the new Japanese Government under Hosokawa will bring about structural changes in Japan that would make it easier for U.S. goods and services to be sold there.

"I hope that the changes he brings to Japan can help to redefine the relationship between our two countries in ways that improve the economic difficulties which we have had," Clinton said. However, he stressed the U.S. and Japan must fix their strained economic relations and make "significant progress" on trade issues.

Hosokawa told reporters Clinton made no specific demands as to how Japan must reduce its massive current-account surplus nor did they discuss numerical targets on U.S. exports to Japan. The Japanese premier said he gave his word to Clinton that Japan "will do its best" to remove trade friction on the basis of the framework agreement concluded in July.

The accord commits Japan to achieve a "highly significant" cut in its overall trade surplus and set "objective criteria" to ensure foreign businesses are treated fairly in the Japanese market. Beyond bilateral trade relations, Hosokawa and Clinton said they also covered a wide range of international issues, including support for reform in Russia and North Korea's suspected nuclear arms program. Hosokawa said he and Clinton shared "serious concern" about North Korea and Japan is carefully watching Pyongyang-Washington negotiations on the nuclear issue.

Clinton pledged to cooperate with Japan on a wide range of global issues, including the middle east peace process.

Hosokawa said in his address to the U.N. General Assembly earlier Monday that Japan will provide 200 million dollars in aid over the next two years to the palestinians. "I thanked the prime minister for the announcement," Clinton said.

Clinton and Hosokawa also called for an early conclusion of the Uruguay Round of global trade talks, both vowing to get an agreement by December 15, the deadline agreed among the 116 countries taking part in the negotiations. Hosokawa sought Clinton's understanding about what he said were "difficulties in each country's agriculture sector" but insisted that Japan's ban on rice imports did not come up at the meeting.

Hosokawa said he outlined a series of reform efforts he is undertaking in Japan, noting that his government is considering a major tax overhaul, including a possible cut in income tax. U.S. officials have pressed for an income tax cut in Japan, arguing it would help boost the Japanese economy and help global growth. When pressed by reporters about his commitment to an income tax cut, Hosokawa backpedaled somewhat, pointing out the funding difficulties.

Both Hosokawa and Clinton stressed the level of mutual trust and confidence they have built after Monday's meeting and their ability to work together.

"I think we will be able to work together in a very constructive way over the long haul," Clinton said.

The meeting Monday was the first of three planned between the two leaders in the next four months. They are slated to have another round of talks when they attend an informal summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation nations in Seattle in November. Another meeting is scheduled in January, the deadline for tackling a series of market-access issues under the framework accord.

Meets UN General Assembly President

OW2809000493 Tokyo KYODO in English 2336 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] New York, Sept. 27 KYODO—The president of the U.N. General Assembly [UNGA], Samuel Insanally, told prime minister Morihiro Hosokawa on Monday [27 September] that there is a strong hope within the world body that Japan will play "a prominent role" on the U.N. Security Council.

Officials said Insanally also expressed his personal wish that there will be major progress toward a proposed restructuring of the Security Council during his tenure as head of the General Assembly. Hosokawa told Insanally that Japan is prepared to play "an appropriate role" in the U.N. and on the council, they said.

Insanally, who concurrently serves as Guyana's ambassador to Tokyo, praised Japan for its growing role in the world body, citing the hosting of an upcoming international conference on African development, the officials said. Insanally also said he hopes to visit Japan more often in future, the officials said. Hosokawa replied that he is looking forward to seeing more of the Guyanese diplomat, an avid fan of kabuki.

On Japan-Guyana relations, the officials said, Insanally said his country is sending many young diplomats to Japan to learn Japanese, adding that he personally expects Guyana to combine its natural resources with Japanese technology and investment to expand bilateral relations.

Hosokawa Departs for Home

OW2809005293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0025 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] New York, Sept. 27 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa left New York for home on Monday evening [27 September] after addressing the United Nations General Assembly and discussing trade and global issues with U.S. President Bill Clinton. A

chartered jetliner carrying Hosokawa and his entourage left John F. Kennnedy Airport at 7:38 p.m. Monday (8:38 a.m. Tuesday, Japan time) on a 14-hour flight to Tokyo.

Chief Cabinet Secretary on Hosokawa-Clinton Talks

OW2809054093 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 28 Sep 93

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura gave the following comments on the Japan-U.S. summit meeting at a news conference this morning, stressing the achievement of the talks:

[Begin Takemura recording] It seems that the two leaders held very congenial discussions. I believe they have deepened their personal relationship of trust considerably. Regarding economic policy, Prime Minister Hosokawa explained Japan's position, and President Clinton seems to have come to a favorable impression of the Hosokawa cabinet's economic policies. [end recording]

Keidanren Chairman Hails Talks Outcome

OW2809060693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0539 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 28 KYODO—Japan's business world on Tuesday generally welcomed the outcome of the Monday meeting of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and U.S. President Bill Clinton in New York, although noting there is still a lot to do.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), said he felt the two nations have entered into a new era when Hosokawa and Clinton exchanged pledges of commitment to change.

"The meeting appeared to be helpful in establishing personal trust of each other," Hiraiwa said.

Kosaku Inaba, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the meeting was a step forward for the two countries because the two leaders generally shared a perception of each other's standpoint.

Many business leaders, however, pointed out that there are still big problems Japan must tackle, such as reducing its towering trade surplus with the U.S. and getting its economy back on track.

Masaru Hayami, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Doyukai), said the meeting was just a beginning.

Japan needs to act voluntarily on whatever it has to do before Hosokawa and Clinton meet next time, he said, stressing the importance of strong leadership by the Japanese prime minister.

Hosokawa and Clinton are scheduled to meet some time in November and again early next year.

Clinton UN Statement on Nuclear Treaty Welcomed

OW2809074293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0715 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 28 KYODO—Japan on Tuesday [28 September] welcomed an announcement by U.S. President Bill Clinton at the United Nations on U.S. policy on nuclear nonproliferation. In a statement, the Foreign Ministry called the U.S. policy announcement "timely and appropriate in that it clarifies its posture to tackle comprehensively the nonproliferation issues from a broad viewpoint."

These ranged from the disarmament issue to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and export control, it said.

Japan particularly welcomes the fact that the United States has "clarified its intention to put its own surplus of highly enriched uranium and plutonium under the safeguard measures of the International Atomic Energy Agency," the statement said.

It also appreciates a proposal to hold a multilateral convention to prohibit the production of highly enriched uranium and the separation of plutonium for use in nuclear weapons or outside the framework of international safeguards.

Tokyo also praised Washington's reaffirmation that it will maintain its existing commitments regarding the use of plutonium in civil nuclear programs in western Europe and Japan.

Such action "implies that the United States pays ample consideration to the countries including Japan which are closely connected with it in nuclear power cooperation," the statement said.

Japan wants to continue to cope with disarmament and nonproliferation while closely cooperating with the U.S. and other nations, it said.

Hata Urges Ukraine To Ratify START Treaty

OW2809045693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0345 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] New York, Sept. 27 KYODO—Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata urged his Ukrainian counterpart Anatoliy Zlenko on Monday [27 September] to speedily ratify the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) and sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Hata told Zlenko that Japan is willing to extend aid to the Ukraine for it to dismantle the hundreds of former Soviet nuclear warheads still on its soil, but Zlenko avoided a direct response on the matter, Japanese officials said.

Ukraine became a party to the 1991 start under protocols signed in 1992, but has so far refrained from ratifying it. Zlenko indicated a wish to improve relations

with Japan, saying he hopes to dispatch a team to Japan to prepare for the opening of a Ukrainian Embassy in Tokyo.

Tokyo, U.S. Agree to 'Basic Studies' on Missiles

OW2809033893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0253 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Washington, Sept. 27 KYODO—Japan and the United States failed to agree Monday on a U.S. proposal to set up a joint working group of defense experts to develop a 12 billion dollar air defense system against North Korea's medium-range missiles.

Defense Agency Director General Keisuke Nakanishi told U.S. Defense Secretary Les Aspin that Tokyo's seven-party coalition government had problems finding a common stance on the so-called Theater Missile Defense (TMD) system that Washington wants. It was the first bilateral meeting of defense ministers since the inauguration of the new Japanese Government in August.

The TMD system would destroy incoming missiles while they are flying through or above the atmosphere.

Nakanishi told reporters the two sides agreed to study the system within the framework of working-level consultations of defense officials. He said the consultations would be limited to "basic studies" due to Japan's constitutional restrictions on collective defense arrangements.

The Japanese and U.S. Governments earlier reported that North Korea had successfully test-fired the Nodong-1 ballistic missile, which reportedly has an estimated range of 1,000 kilometers. The Nodong-1 is reportedly able to deliver nuclear and biological warheads. Last month, a North Korean Army officer who defected to South Korea said Pyongyang has two underground launching pads for the missiles.

Developing the TMD system for strategic purposes would cost an estimated 12 billion dollars, equal to about a quarter of the annual Japan-U.S. annual trade imbalance, over the next five years.

Aspin reportedly told Nakanishi Japan's participation in developing the system could contribute to reducing its huge trade surplus with the U.S,, but Nakanishi said that Japan would consider the proposal "from a purely military angle."

Last week U.S. Undersecretary of Defense John Deutch said during a visit to Tokyo that Washington does not regard obtaining Japan's financial cooperation as a prerequisite for joint development, but expected Japan to provide its high technology in composite material manufacturing and electronics.

Nakanishi said Aspin agreed to hold long-planned cabinet-level security talks with foreign and defense ministers attending "as soon as possible." Although the idea was broached three years ago, no such talks have been held up to now.

Aspin proposed to hold the talks during an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting scheduled for mid-November in Seattle, he said.

Nakanishi told Aspin Japan hopes to upgrade United Nations peacekeeping operations, currently characterized as an auxiliary task, to one of the "main tasks" of the self-defense forces, defense agency officials said.

Aspin stressed the importance of bilateral cooperation in peacekeeping operations and suggested that more exchange of information could contribute to higher efficiency of such operations.

In reply, Nakanishi promised that Japan would "actively" promote cooperation with the U.S. in peacekeeping operations, the officials said.

SDPJ Opposes Defense System

OW2809073893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0720 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 28 KYODO—New Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] Chairman Tomiichi Murayama said Tuesday [28 September] his party opposes a proposal to deploy a high-tech, antimissile system capable of knocking down North Korean missiles that reportedly can reach most parts of Japan.

"The Social Democratic Party of Japan will not support a proposal to maintain peace (and security) by strengthening Japan's military capabilities," said the head of the largest among the seven parties in the ruling coalition.

Murayama was responding to questions as to whether the SDPJ would back a U.S. proposal to jointly develop the theater missile defense (TMD) program, an improved version of Patriot missiles used to shoot down Iraqi Scud missiles during the 1992 Persian Gulf War.

"Japan should seek to ensure its security partly by counting on U.S. cooperation, while taking into consideration how to establish a new security arrangement joined by nations in the whole Asian region," Murayama told a luncheon meeting at the Japan National Press Club.

He made the comments a day after the defense ministers of Japan and the United States, Keisuke Nakanishi and Les Aspin, agreed to establish a working group of experts to consider in depth the proposal to push joint development of the TMD through mutual technological cooperation.

The TMD proposal surfaced after Pyongyang test-fired the "Nodong-1" ballistic missile with an estimated range of 1,000 kilometers, which is reportedly capable of delivering nuclear and biological weapons.

The TMD would destroy incoming missiles by instantly detecting the launching of missiles with a reconnaissance satellite radar and then automatically triggering the intercepting missile launches, while the enemy missiles are flying through or above the atmosphere.

Murayama told reporters the international community should adopt a softer approach of gently trying to persuade Pyongyang to accept international inspection of the alleged nuclear arms plants.

"We should seek to create conditions that would make it easier for Pyongyang to agree to resume talks for accepting inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency by obtaining cooperation of China, Russia and South Korea (for persuasion)."

North Korea has canceled fresh talks with the IAEA on inspection of its suspected facilities in Yongbyon in an official letter that reached IAEA Director General Hans Blix on Saturday.

Murayama, however, acknowledged the inspection issue was plunged into "the unstable situation" after North Korea retreated from its accord with the IAEA to resume talks over inspection.

Further on IMF Interim Committee Meeting

Fujii Objects to Debt Reduction

OW2809010493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0036 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Washington, Sept. 27 KYODO—Japanese Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii objected Monday [27 September] to increasing debt relief for poor nations, while stressing the need to continue giving fresh funds.

"I believe it is best to deal with this within the existing international debt strategy," Fujii said in a prepared speech at a twice-yearly meeting of the development committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

"It is imperative...that a continuing flow of new money to these countries be secured to the appropriate areas in accordance with the conditions of each country," he said.

Fujii said he is concerned that being "too ready to resort to official debt measures impedes the smooth flow of new money to these countries" and discourages them from making determined efforts to repay their debts. His remarks drew criticism from some other participants, led by British Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke, as harming recent international talks on debt relief.

Meeting Issues Communique

OW2809060193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0354 GMT 28 Sep 93

[by Kohei Murayama]

[Text] Washington, Sept. 27 KYODO—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank reaffirmed Monday that Japan and other Asian nations serve as a model for the growth process of low-income nations.

"Some of the lessons of the east Asian experience May be relevant to today's low-income countries," the development committee of the two international financial institutions said in a communique issued after a twice-yearly meeting. A senior Japanese official said the meeting featured strong interest by many participants in factors behind Asia's steady growth, with the communique citing in particular "macroeconomic policy, export orientation, human resource development and the training of a professional civil service."

Against this backdrop, the committee renewed its call for structural adjustments mainly based on such Asian success, while admitting that "many low-income countries have found it hard to make the (previously advocated) economic adjustment" to achieve growth without widening the wealth gap.

The official said the committee also stressed the importance of long-term strategy as taken by successful Asian nations and urged the low-income countries to "formulate and implement their own programs accordingly." But in a bid to reassure that such self-help programs would not offer a reason for countries to keep their markets closed, the committee called on developing nations for a "fresh impetus to growth" and for successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks by the end of this year.

The talks sponsored by the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade are "crucial to the growth prospects for industrial and developing countries alike," the communique said.

It cited a lack of domestic savings, which are relatively high in Japan and other Asian nations, as a major reason for slow economic adjustments in the low-income countries. Such nations, it said, will need to "supplement domestic savings with foreign investment and with substantial and timely concessional financial support, together with necessary and appropriate relief of bilateral debt."

As for donors, the communique voiced hopes for ratification of the already-agreed 10th replenishment of the World Bank's soft-loan window, the International Development Association, as early as possible.

It also called for an agreement of "the broadest possible spectrum of contributors" to the sucessor of the IMF's Enhanced Structural Adjustment facility, which reaches a deadline for new commitments November 30.

Though touched on in the communique, discussions did not progress much on other issues such as social security and safety net for former communist nations, assistance to Palestinians, or the role of women in development strategy, the Japanese official said. The committee will

meet next in Washington in next April to discuss population and migration issues, the communique said.

Finance Minister Leaves for Home

OW2709233893 Tokyo KYODO in English 2156 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Washington, Sept. 27 KYODO—Japanese Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii left Washington on Monday afternoon [27 September] to return home after attending international financial meetings. They included a weekend gathering of financial ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven economic powers and a twice-yearly meeting of the International Monetary Fund's Interim Committee. Fujii is scheduled to arrive in Tokyo on Tuesday afternoon.

Delegates Present Proposal for APEC Summit

OW2409033393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0245 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Waikiki, Hawaii, Sept. 23 KYODO—Delegates from Pacific rim nations have reached agreement to adopt a declaration on trade and investment at their summit in Seattle in November and to set up a panel promoting regional trade and investment, Japanese delegates said Thursday [23 September]. The agreement came at a four-day meeting of senior officials from the 15-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum that began Tuesday, they said.

U.S. officials have said papers would be presented in Seattle on harmonizing customs and investment procedures, and product tests and standards to be included in the declaration. Founded in 1989 as a ministerial forum to promote economic development in the Asia-Pacific region, APEC groups Australia, Brunei, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has invited the leaders of APEC member nations to an informal summit in Seattle from November 18 to 19 in an effort to upgrade the potentially powerful trade group. The U.S. delegation to the Hawaii meeting formally presented invitation letters to the leaders, according to Japanese delegates.

Among the invited are Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Taiwanese President Li Teng-hui, they said. Chinese officials have expressed reserve over the APEC summit, saying APEC members Hong Kong and Taiwan had no right to attend such a meeting.

At the Hawaii meeting, APEC delegates also agreed to discuss membership applications by Papua New Guinea and Mexico at the Seattle summit meeting, they said. The Japanese presented to the Hawaii meeting a proposal for enhancing the free trade system and securing energy in harmony with the environment toward the year 2000, they said.

KYODO Carries Text of G-7 Statement on Russia

OW2609004793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0026 GMT 26 Sep 93

["Text of G-7 Statement on Russia"—KYODO headline]

[Text] Washington, Sept. 25 KYODO—Following is a statement of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations' finance ministers and central bank governors on their Saturday [25 September] meeting with Russian Finance Minister Boris Fedorov in Washington.

The G-7 finance ministers and central bank governors met today with Russian Finance Minister Boris Fedorov to discuss recent developments in Russia.

Minister Fedorov underscored the unwavering commitment of President Yeltsin's government to pursue the path of democracy and market reform. He discussed new measures Russia intended to take in order to forge ahead with sound fiscal and monetary policies and to further the continued sweeping privatization of the Russian economy.

Ministers expressed their appreciation for Minister Fedorov's report. They noted that Russia's transformation to democracy and a market economy is enormously complex. They praised President Yeltsin's commitment to pursue the path of market-oriented reform. They saw this path as the right one for creating a better future for Russia's people and for integrating Russia into the world economy.

Ministers expressed their very strong hope that the latest developments will help Russia achieve a decisive breakthrough onto the path of market reform. They reaffirmed their commitment to the program of support agreed on in Tokyo in April and urged the Russian government to take the measures necessary for it to be fully effective.

Sources Say Yeltsin Wants To Address Parliament

OW2809072193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0639 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 28 KYODO—Russian President Boris Yeltsin wishes to address the Japanese Parliament when he visits Tokyo beginning October 12, political sources said Tuesday [28 September]. The sources said Tokyo recently received word from Moscow that Yeltsin wants to deliver a speech before the Diet at the plenary session of the House of Representatives in the early part of his visit.

In April 1991, then-Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev gave an address to the House of Representatives, the first ever by a Kremlin leader.

Earlier in the day, an eight-member Russian advance team arrived in Tokyo aboard an Aeroflot flight from Moscow to make preparations for Yeltsin's visit.

The team, which will stay through October 1, will be meeting with Foreign Ministry protocol officials, as well as government officials in charge of security for the presidential visit.

In a New York meeting over the weekend, the foreign ministers of Japan and Russia, Tsutomu Hata and Andrey Kozyrev, set Yeltsin's Japan visit to start October 12.

Japanese officials said the number of days Yeltsin plans to stay in Japan will be discussed in talks between the Russian advance team and Japanese officials.

Last Group of Peacekeepers Returns From Cambodia

OW2609132293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1250 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Chitose, Hokkaido, Sept. 26 KYODO—The last group of Japanese engineering troops from peacekeeping operations in Cambodia arrived home Sunday, ending Japan's yearlong UN mission there. The 150 troops arrived at the Chitose base of the Air Self-Defense Force in northern Japan. It was the first deployment of Japanese ground troops since World War II.

The Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) troops left Phnom Penh aboard a UN-chartered plane. Their families were on hand to greet them. They were part of a second 600-member engineering battalion which served for about six months in southern Cambodia after replacing the first battalion that also had a six-month stint. The rest of the second contingent, totaling 449 officers, returned home September 14. Japan's peacekeeping to Cambodia will be formally dissolved next Sunday in a ceremony to be held at the GSDF's Eniwa base in Hokkaido.

The battalion has left behind about 10 million dollars worth of equipment and supplies at its Takeo base, about 75 kilometers south of Phnom Penh, to help the country get back on its feet.

Japan sent about 1,300 peacekeepers to Cambodia, including military observers and civilian police as well as the 1,200 engineering troops, after it enacted the UN Peacekeeping Cooperation Law in June last year.

2 LDP Members of Parliament Visit Burma

OW2209141293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1258 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Yangon [Rangoon], Sept. 22 KYODO—Two Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) members of the House of Representatives of the Japanese Diet arrived in Yangon on Wednesday [23 September] on separate visits.

Koichi Kato, a former Chief Cabinet Secretary, arrived from Japan for a three-day visit. The other LDP [Liberal Democratic Party] member, Shin Sakurai, came in from Singapore. He will return to Singapore on Thursday. The purpose and program of their visits are not immediately known but both are expected to meet with leaders of the ruling military junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC). The Japanese Embassy said the two conservative legislators were on goodwill visits.

Another member of the House of Representatives, Naoto Kan, chairman of the house's Foreign Affairs Committee, visited Yangon on September 9 to 11. Kan is a senior member of the United Social Democratic Party, one of the seven parties in Japan's ruling coalition. He met with Myanmar [Burmese] leaders including SLORC Secretary Maj-Gen. Khin Nyunt, Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw and Brig-Gen. David Abel, national planning and economic development minister.

PRC, Australia, SRV Eager To Supply Rice

OW2709130393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1238 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 27 KYODO—China, Australia and other rice exporting countries Monday [27 September] welcomed Japan's decision to buy foreign rice to cover a possible shortage of rice supplies and showed strong interest in supplying the market. A Chinese envoy to Tokyo said Beijing "is glad to lend a helpful hand to Japan because it is in trouble." He said China is ready to ship several hundreds of thousands tons of rice, which he billed as high quality, although it has yet to receive any requests from Tokyo.

Confronted with the worst harvests in recent history as a result of a cold and wet summer, the Japanese Government has decided to import rice from overseas. Japan imported rice until the late 1960s. But since then it has only purchased an emergency supply of 150,000 tons from South Korea in 1984 and a tiny volume of Thai rice used to make sake in the southernmost prefecture of Okinawa.

Paul Satton, a councilor at the Australian Embassy in charge of agricultural affairs, said Australia is interested in exporting rice to Japan.

"Japan would be a premium market for Australian rice farmers and so they could be expected to be" interested in supplying the Japanese market from harvest time next year in March and April, Satton said in a written reply to a KYODO NEWS SERVICE questionnaire. Satton said Australia produces about one million tons of rice each year, of which 90 percent is shipped abroad. If requested by Tokyo, Australia will put additional rice fields into production for the 1994 season in October, he said, urging the Japanese Government to quickly determine whether it is willing to buy Australian rice.

Vietnam, which exports two million tons of rice every year, said the country is capable of shipping 500,000-600,000 tons of rice to Japan.

"We will be gratified if Japan becomes a regular buyer of our rice in the future," a Vietnam Embassy official said.

On the contrary, Thailand, the world's top rice exporter with four million tons of rice supplied for overseas markets annually, is cautious and declined to make a comment.

Government To Form Farm Disaster Forum

OW2209114093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1114 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 22 KYODO—The government decided Wednesday [22 September] to form a ministerial forum to discuss steps to cope with damage to agriculture by natural disasters such as typhoons, officials said. They said the forum is designed to strengthen cooperation among the appropriate ministries and draw up a comprehensive package of countermeasures. The officials said rice production will probably hit a postwar low this year because of the unusually wet and cool summer.

They said the forum will include Agriculture Minister Eijiro Hata, Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii, Home Affairs Minister Kanju Sato and Kosuke Uehara, director general of the National Land Agency.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is likely to offer emergency relief aid to farmers by the end of this month, the officials said. The ministry also plans to seek cooperation from local authorities to ease the impact of damage to farmers, they said.

Official Eyes Consumption Tax as Pension Source

OW2409142793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1401 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Kan Kato, chief of the government's Tax Commission, indicated a need Friday to use a portion of consumption tax revenue for pension payments. Kato was addressing a news conference after attending the commission's subcommittee meeting, which discussed Japan's tax system under the expected aging of society.

Consumption tax should be considered from "an angle of welfare," Kato said in an apparent effort to propose ways to secure a system of stable pension payments without raising social security payments. Kato presented one example in which he claimed younger people unfairly shoulder social security costs.

Average pension benefits currently provided to aged people are equal to about 80 percent of average disposal income of typical salaried workers, Kato said. A portion of consumption tax, taxation imposed on all age groups equally, should be earmarked as a source of pension payments, he said.

MITI Approves Electric Power, Gas Rate Cuts

OW2409032593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0233 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) on Friday [24 September] approved rate cuts by electric power and city gas companies, MITI officials said. The 10 power utilities and Tokyo, Osaka and Toho gas companies will lower their rates for 11 months beginning in November as a way to pass on to consumers some 265 billion yen worth of their windfall profits from the yen's appreciation, the officials said. The cuts will be the first since April 1989. For an average family of four, the monthly electricity bill will be cut by between 50 and 150 yen and the gas bill by between 124 and 150 yen.

The rate cuts are part of the pump-priming measures announced September 16 by the government of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

In the year from November, electricity users will save an estimated 230 billion yen as a result of the average 1.8 percent rate cut, while gas consumers will benefit by 35 billion yen through an average 2.86 percent cut, MITI officials said.

Government Proposes Fees for Waste Collection

OW2409102893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0919 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—A Health and Welfare Ministry research panel proposed Friday to charge fees on waste collection and to oblige manufacturers and distributors to take back and recycle junked products, ministry officials said. The government plans to decide by next summer on measures to put the project into effect after it discusses the matter with industries at the ministry's Living Environment Council beginning in October, they said.

The research council said 636 of Japan's 3,235 cities, towns and villages have imposed fees on garbage collection. Many of the 636 local governments sell designated waste bags to those who want their garbage collected. The price of the bag will be the waste collection fee, they said.

In Date in Hokkaido, the total amount of waste dropped by 30 percent after it put such a measure into effect, they said. The council stressed the importance of obliging manufactures and distributors to take back and recycle products they had manufactured or sold. It complained that companies have not tried to reduce unnecessary wrapping or develop products easier to recycle because local governments have funded waste collection by taxes. The council said firms should form organizations to collect their products, beginning with wrapping and containers and then extending to other materials.

Ministry To Cut Postal Savings Rates 27 Sep

OW2409114393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1118 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—The Posts and Telecommunications Ministry will trim rates on "new time" and fixed-amount postal savings deposits Monday [27 September], ministry officials said Friday. The rates on fixed-amount savings with deposit periods of six months or more will be lowered by 0.1-0.25 percentage point, bringing the rate on deposits of three years or more to 2.75 percent per annum from 3.00 percent at present. This in turn brings down the yield to 2.846 percent from 3.114 percent. The rates on the "new time" deposits, whose rates are set freely based on market rates, will be lowered by 0.1-0.25 point, depending on deposit periods. The postal savings rate cuts follow a 0.75 point cut to 1.75 percent in the official discount rate by the Bank of Japan on Tuesday.

Wholesale Price Index Up 0.2 Percent in Early Sep

OW2409102993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1004 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Japan's overall wholesale prices inched up 0.2 percent in the first 10 days of September from August 21-31, with the index standing at 94.2 against 100 for 1985, but fell 3.6 percent year on year, the Bank of Japan said Friday. The domestic wholesale price index remained unchanged from the preceding 11 days at 98.3 as higher prices of agricultural goods due to bad weather were offset by lower prices for steel and electronic parts. On a year-on-year basis, however, the domestic index was 1.8 percent lower. Export prices rose 1.5 percent from the August 21-31 period on a yen basis but were down 9.3 percent from a year before, with the index at 81.7. Import prices edged up 0.1 percent from the previous period on a yen basis, but were down 15.1 percent from a year earlier. The index was 72.9.

SDP Convention Approves Selection of New Chairman

OW2509064993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0632 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 25 KYODO—The Social Democratic Party (SDP) on Saturday [25 September] approved the selection of Tomiichi Murayama as chairman in yet another move seen as strengthening the hand of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa in pushing his electoral and political reform bills through the diet. The endorsement came in a voice vote by 347 delegates comprising SDP legislators and regional representatives from across the nation in the party's 60th national convention at its Tokyo headquarters.

Murayama, 69, was swept to the helm of the SDP in a national vote by the party's 130,000 full and associate members on September 20. Murayama defeated his left-wing rival Masatoshi Ito, who campaigned on a platform of opposing Hosokawa's electoral reform proposal on grounds that it would expose the party to the risk of a "near-extinction" in the next House of Representatives election.

During the convention, civic groups equipped with loudspeakers gathered outside the headquarters to protest the electoral reform proposal. Some within the party fear that a proposal to establish an electoral system featuring 250 single-seat constituencies would put SDP candidates at a disadvantage.

Earlier in the day, Ito said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE, "I fear that a decline in the SDP's Diet seats and influence may strip Japanese politics of political forces ready to criticize and check bribery politics among conservative parties, as Murayama's endorsement formally put an end to the eight-month rule by his predecessor Sadao Yamahana, who offered to resign to take the blame for the SDP's major setback in the July 18 general election. The vote plunged the SDP's strength in the lower house to 70 seats from its preelection 134.

Prior to the vote, Yamahana told the delegates, "I came under criticism after making the decision to oust the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)-controlled government from power and join the coalition government formed subsequently."

Yamahana was referring to the party's decision to submit a no confidence motion in mid-June against the government of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa that was passed with the help of 44 LDP members who defected from the party.

"Now, we need to demonstrate to the public the raison d'etre of our party," said Yamahana, who is minister in charge of political reform.

Another SDP legislator, Manae Kubota, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, told the convention, "although the Japanese Government is now undergoing changes in appearances, instituting substantial improvements in its contents is still hard to realize."

"However, what is good news...is that the SDP has succeeded in placing its comrades into the construction and transport ministries long associated with bribery politics," she said in reference to the appointments of Kozo Igarashi and Shigeru Ito.

SDP Secretary General Hirotaka Akamatsu, in his report to the convention, urged SDP delegates to throw their weight behind Hosokawa's electoral reform bill, saying that to balk at it might scuttle the coalition government. The SDP has the largest presence within the coalition with 70 lower house legislators.

"We are shouldering the extremely heavy responsibility as the very party that put the minister in charge of political reform in the coalition cabinet," he said.

Later in the day, Murayama and the SDP leadership will seek endorsement of nominations of top executives, including Wataru Kubo as secretary general, Koken Nosaka as chairman of the Diet Administration Committee and Nobuhiko Sekiyama as chairman of the policy board, SDP officials said. A group of left-wing SDP legislators, however, plans to field it own candidate for the office of the secretary general as a symbolic demonstration of their opposition to the proposed electoral reform bill, they said. The vote to endorse nominees to the top party posts will take place in the evening, the officials said.

SDP Endorses Hosokawa's Electoral Reform Proposal

OW2509121593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1137 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 25 KYODO—The Social Democratic Party's [SDP] national convention adopted a resolution Saturday [25 September] committing it to endorsing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's proposals for electoral reform. The decision came in the form of a voice vote at the convention which was attended by 347 delegates comprising SDP legislators and local representatives from Japan's 47 prefectures.

The endorsement followed a question-and-answer session that lasted three and a half hours. Many delegates and regional SDP organizers are bitterly against the proposed electoral reform, fearing it will push the party to "near-extinction."

The convention also approved a new party lineup led by the chairman, Tomiichi Murayama. The convention selected Wataru Kubo as secretary general. Murayama took the top party post following a September 20 vote by the party's 130,000 full and associate members. The resolution says, "Our party decided to defend the proposed electoral system combining 250 single-seat constituencies and the proportional representation under which another 250 seats are to be allocated, while voters would be allowed to cast two ballots for each of the two systems."

It also says, "We decided to reject a proposal to create a two- party system or a system under which two conservative parties could transfer power with each other."

The coalition government has submitted the electoral reform bills to the current extraordinary Diet session. The SDP is a member of the seven-party coalition government. Hosokawa has indicated he will resign if the electoral reform bills fail to be enacted before the end of the year. The resolution also called for the creation of a "moderate multiparty coalition system," in which the SDP would "strive to become a cornerstone through democratic competition" with other coalition partners.

Murayama, in an address to the convention, listed two goals he hopes to achieve as head of the largest party in the coalition government.

"My first assignment is to support the Hosokawa coalition administration... While seeking to enhance the attractiveness of this administration by presenting the SDP as something the general public can easily identify with."

"My second goal is to revive and reconstruct the SDP after its historic defeat in the last general election."

Harumasa Seki, who heads the party's Aomori prefectural chapter, told the convention, "The proposed electoral system is poison. If we swallow it, the party will be annihilated."

"Judging from an average 18 percent voter support ratio for the SDP in past national elections, we would only be able to win 45 seats of the 250 up for grabs under proportional representation and we would get virtually nothing from single-seat districts," he said.

The SDP has 70 seats in the House of Representatives. Currently the 511 seats of the lower house are selected from 129 multiseat constituencies. The SDP initially opposed the electoral reform plan but accepted it after Hosokawa's Japan New Party and Sakigake (Harbinger) made acceptance a precondition to joining the coalition government. SDP Secretary General Hirotaka Akamatsu defended the system and underscored the importance of selecting "unified candidates" in each of the 250 single-seat districts in close consultation and coordination with other coalition partners.

The convention approved the selection of Koken Nosaka as Diet Administration Committee chairman and that of Nobuyuki Sekiyama as Policy Board chairman. It also approved the selection of three vice chairmen—Issei Inoue, Shun Oide and Keiko Chiba.

Murayama's predecessor, Sadao Yamahana, is a state minister in charge of political reform. Yamahana offered to resign following the SDP's defeat in the July 18 general election.

Murayama defeated left-wing rival Masatoshi Ito, who campaigned on a platform of opposing Hosokawa's electoral reform proposal on grounds it would expose the party to "near-extinction" in the next House of Representatives election.

Takemura, Mitsuzuka Discuss Political Reform

OW2409122593 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0000 GMT 19 Sep 93

[Editorial Report] Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese at 0000 GMT on 19 September carries a live, 120-minute panel discussion entitled "How Will Political Reform Change the Japanese Political System?" Taking part are Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura, Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, chief of the Political Reform Headquarters of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], Tokyo University professor Takeshi Saeki, and journalist Eiko Oya. The moderator is NHK commentator Takashi Yamamoto.

NHK reporter Hirohide Ito presents a voice over video report explaining the differences in the electoral reform proposals put forward by the ruling coalition parties and those presented by the opposition LDP. He points out that both reform plans aim to abolish the conventional multi-seat system and adopt a combination single-seat constituency and proportional representation.

Takemura is asked why the coalition parties want a combination electoral system.

Takemura says: "There is no completely perfect electoral system and I think it is important for both ruling and opposition parties to discuss ways to find the best option."

Mitsuzuka then explains why the LDP has shifted its position on the issue. It had originally sought a single-seat constituency.

He says: "The LDP, which has worked hard to change the conventional electoral system, has decided to make the shift in response to the people's wishes," and he points to the "importance of adopting an electoral system which makes a change of government possible."

After about 40 minutes exchanging views on the distribution ratio of seats between small, single-seat constituencies and proportional representation, and on the merits of the combination electoral system, Ito presents another voice over video report, this time on how political parties are likely to campaign under the new electoral system. The panelists then discuss how best to change the electoral system for elections to the House of Councillors.

Yamamoto then asks Takemura to comment on how such electoral reform will shape the future political party structure.

Takemura says: "The single-seat constituency is said likely to produce a two-party structure and proportional representation allows for the existence of small parties. The combination electoral system aims for the co-existence of a two-party structure together with the small parties," adding that the "idea of building a two-party structure is premature."

Mitsuzuka says: "The LDP wants, in principle, to achieve a two-party structure. I think it is desirable to practice politics under such a structure. It will eventually be adopted and this is what the people want."

At 1001 GMT, Yamamoto shifts the subject to political reform, stressing that people have high hopes of measures to tightly control political funds and prevent political corruption.

Ito then provides a brief voice over video outline of the political reform plans put forward by the coalition and the LDP.

Yamamoto says the key element in the package is that contributions should be made not to individual politicians, but to political parties.

Takemura says: "Discussions have been held on how to raise political funds from public sources since the Kaifu government. Our package of plans aims to shift the flow of money from individual politicians to political parties, thereby preventing a recurrence of political scandals. The consensus is that the flow of huge sums of political funds into the campaign coffers of certain politicians should be stopped and that corporate contributions should be cut."

"Political parties receive contributions from individual citizens and corporations. It is difficult to achieve adequate funding from individual donations alone, so political parties have had little choice but to rely on corporations and organizations for their funding and this has bred political scandals and weakened politics.

"Our ruling coalition parties therefore intend to stop contributions from corporations. It would be nice if individual contributions could grow to fill the gap that will be left, but we cannot expect that, So are looking at a third way—raising political funds from public sources. I do not think it is desirable for politicians to rely totally on taxes for their political funding because it then makes them look like government officials. Therefore, the coalition partners have proposed that one third of political funding come from public sources in future."

The panelists continue to discuss public funding for political parties. Mitsuzuka refers to the need for a British-style anti-corruption law to prevent a recurrence of political corruption.

Takemura refers back to the coalition proposals on funding from public sources, saying: "It may be possible in the future to raise the level of public funding for political parties from a third to a half."

After an exchange of views on the uses to which political funds raised from public sources should be put, Yamamoto moves on to the subject of corporate contributions and asks Takemura if he thinks there should be a complete ban on them.

Takemura says: "Many people are calling for a ban on corporate contributions. We will seek to ban them and depend on public resources for one third of political funding. It is true, though, that political parties firmly believe it will be very difficult to ban corporate contributions altogether."

Mitsuzuka says: "In the future, efforts should be made to raise half of all political funding from public sources. For the time being, however, political parties have no choice but to rely on corporations for political funding, though they should disclose receipt of any such contributions."

The discussion then looks at ways corporate contributions can be used before moving on to the enactment in the Diet of a political reform bill package.

Takemura says: "I think full deliberation of the bills will begin in the Diet from late October," adding that he will do everything he can to get the Diet to pass the bills.

Yamamoto asks Mitsuzuka about the possibility of the ruling coalition and opposition parties striking a deal on the bills.

Mitsuzuka says: "If neither the ruling nor opposition parties make concessions, nothing can be done."

Yamamoto thanks the panelists for their contributions and concludes the discussion at 0200 GMT.

Former Transport Official Wins Tokushima Election

OW2609114293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1119 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Tokushima, Sept. 26 KYODO—Former Transport Ministry councilor Toshio Endo won a gubernatorial election in Tokushima Prefecture, western Japan, on Sunday. Endo, 50, defeated Akira Nakano, 62, candidate from the Japanese Communist Party, and Gengo Shimizu, 66, independent. Endo, who succeeds incumbent Shinzo Miki, was supported by the Liberal Democratic Party, the Social Democratic Party, Komeito, Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), the Japan New Party, the Democratic Socialist Party and Sakigake (Harbinger).

Official Protests Okinawa Basing of Rescue Unit

OW2509062993 Naha NHK Radio in Japanese 2200 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] It has been decided that a special U.S. Air Force unit, which was temporarily deployed from the Philippines in 1991, will be stationed at Kadena Air Base [KAB] permanently. The KAB public relations department informed the prefectural government department for base affairs of this decision yesterday. According to the decision, the 353d Special Operations Wing of the U.S. Air Force will be stationed permanently at KAB because there is no other appropriate alternative. The unit has been stationed at KAB since June 1991 when Clark Air Base was closed following the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo.

The special tasks of the 353d Special Operations Wing include missions to rescue the crew of aircraft shot down over the sea. It comprises four converted C-130 transport aircraft and about 300 personnel. However, this unit has been creating problems, including a parachute exercise held on 4 August in an unauthorized area off the cost of Yomitan-son. Because of this, Choko Takayama, executive director of the governor's office, yesterday asked Consul-General Christensen of the U.S. Consulate to cancel the decision and withdraw the unit as soon as possible. Takayama said that the permanent stationing of the 353d Special Operations Wing is against the international trend after the collapse of the cold war structure.

North Korea

Government Manufacturing Chemical Weapons Denied

SK2809110693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1048 GMT 28 Sep 93

["Manufacture of Chemical Weapons" is Fake—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 28 (KCNA)—Radio No. 1 of South Korea on September 27 quoted the "Unification Board" as saying in a material submitted to the puppet National Assembly that "at present the North has eight chemical weapons factories and six poisonous gas depots".

The South Korean authorities' talk about the North's "manufacture of chemical weapons" is a sheer fabrication and despicable demagogy aimed at slinging mud at the DPRK.

As the unbiased public opinion admits unanimously, in the DPRK which has made consistent efforts to preserve world peace and security, there is neither chemical arms manufacture nor toxic gas depot that threatens the existence of mankind.

The DPRK clarified already long ago that it would not engage in any testing for the development of chemical and germ weapons and their production, stockpiling and production, and has striven in that direction. This makes it evident that the DPRK has no chemical and germ weapons.

This notwithstanding, the South Korean authorities blared that the North has not only produced chemical weapons but even produced "viruses like cholera and pest [plague] for germ weapons" and "made living-body tests". Their unfounded, malicious propaganda well knows how doggedly they are trying to do harm to the DPRK.

Truth to tell, it is the same Korean authorities themselves who are to be blamed for the production and stockpiling of germ and chemical weapons.

In South Korea today there are some 10 chemical weapons factories and more than 25,000 drums of chemical weapons. This is nobody's secret made known already long ago.

While mentioning not a word about this fact, the South Korean authorities now raise a hue and cry over the fictitious "manufacture of chemical weapons" by the North. This reveals their insidious attempt to tarnish the image of the DPRK at any cost by some tricky methods and thereby induce international "chastisement" and "coercive measures" against the DPRK.

They must clearly realize that they would harvest nothing from a false propaganda which cannot go down

with anyone, and immediately stop the futile propaganda about the "manufacture of chemical weapons" by the North.

Daily Urges Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

SK2809120293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT 28 Sep 93

["Nukes Must Be Eliminated Completely"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 28 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today in a by-lined article says that all nuclear weapons deployed in different regions of the world must be dismantled and nuclear war games threatening other countries discontinued in order to completely eliminate nuclear weapons and remove the source of nuclear threat.

The article says:

Nuclear threat cannot be removed completely only through cutback on nuclear weapons.

As long as nuclear weapons are left intact on the globe the danger of nuclear war cannot be dispelled, nor can mankind be freed from the constant nuclear threat. To realize the desire of mankind to live in a world without a nuclear war, the nuclear weapons must be eliminated comprehensively and completely.

To this end, nuclear weapons must be removed, first of all, in the countries that actually pose a nuclear threat.

Otherwise, mankind can never be freed from the nuclear threat.

If nuclear powers truly want to remove the nuclear threat and preserve peace, they should show it in deeds by dismantling nuclear weapons.

Japan is one of the main objects against which precautions should be taken in removing nuclear threat.

To check Japan's nuclear armament is a common task of the peoples in Asia and the rest of the world.

In order to completely eliminate nuclear weapons and remove the source of nuclear threat, it is necessary to create nuclear-free, peace zones in different regions of the world and expand them.

Invariable is the DPRK's stand to solve the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula fundamentally and finally. When the nuclear problem is resolved and denuclearization realized on the Korean peninsula the tension will be relaxed in the region fraught with the biggest danger of nuclear war and it will be greatly conducive to ensuring peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world.

Nuclear testing must be stopped for good, production and use of nuclear weapons prohibited and all the nuclear weapons eliminated comprehensively and completely.

Only then can mankind be freed finally from the danger of nuclear holocaust and world peace be maintained on a solid basis.

U.S., South Korea Conduct Military Exercises

SK2609102093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0815 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 26 (KCNA)—Formations of U.S. overseas-based "KC-135" tankers refuelled some 40 fighter bombers engaged in an aerial war exercise in the sky above the sea off Kunsan and staged a night air refuelling exercise in the skies above Yongwol and Kongju, from September 22 to 24, according to military sources.

Meanwhile, a "RC-135" high altitude strategic reconnaissance plane from a base in Japan on September 24 committed an aerophoto and electronic reconnaissance on the whole region of the northern half of Korea, making shuttle flights along the Military Demarcation Line [MDL].

On September 23 and 24, puppet tank groups and large-calibre gun units took their positions in Paju County, Chorwon County and Inje County of South Korean Kangwon Province and fired hundreds of tank shells and shells toward the areas adjacent to the Demilitarized Zone.

The danger of a war is increasing as the days go due to with the unchanged war policies of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets. [sentence as received]

Danish Communists Greet Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il

SK2709134993 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2300 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Congratulatory message from (Betty Hugudensun Liagalson), chairwoman of the Danish Communists Council, to DPRK President Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the founding the DPRK; on 7 September—read by announcer]

[Text] Pyongyang

Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] and DPRK president; and Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army:

Dear comrades:

On the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK, the Danish Communists Council extends our wholehearted congratulations and greetings to the comrades.

The founding, strengthening, and developing of the DPRK have been an encouraging banner to the people of the world who have struggled for social justness and independence.

Since socialism has collapsed in various countries of the world, the world's attention has been focused on the DPRK. The Republic's status has been enhanced daily.

Under today's difficult circumstances in which the power of monopoly capital has become stronger through the sacrifice of the working class and the working popular masses, it is important for the communist parties and workers' parties to strengthen the international solidarity upholding the socialist banner.

We express our firm support and solidarity to the Korean people's just struggle to construct independent socialist DPRK. We extend comradely greetings to you.

[Signed] (Betty Hugudensun Liagalson), chairwoman of the Danish Communists Council

[Dated] 7 September 1993, Copenhagen

Further on Greetings

SK2809044593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0415 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 28 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received messages of greetings from foreign party leaders on the 45th founding anniversary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

They came from General Secretary of the Britannic Communist Party Michael Hicks, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the New Communist Party of Great Britain Eric Trevett, Chairman of the National Direction Committee of the Democratic Intervention of Portugal Blasco Hugo Fernandes and Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party-KPML (R) of Sweden Frank Baude.

The messages extend warm congratulations to President Kim Il-song on the national day and express the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the Workers' Party of Korea and their parties will strengthen and develop.

They wish President Kim Il-song good health and a long life.

The great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received messages of greetings from Chairman of the for Peace and Socialism-the Communist Workers' Party of Finland Timo Lahdenmaki and General Secretary of the Permanent Secretariat of the Progressive Organisation of Socialists in the Mediterranean Milud Al Mahdabi on the national day.

Chang Chol Meets PRC Cultural Delegation

SK2509042593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Chang Chol, vice premier and minister of culture and art, met with the Chinese Government's cultural delegation led by Minister of Culture Liu Zhongde and conversed with the delegation in a friendly atmosphere at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on 23 September.

Ho Paek-san, first vice minister of culture and art, and Ning Fukui, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Chinese Embassy in our country were present at the meeting.

Chinese Communist Friendship Group Arrives

SK2709130393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 27 (KCNA)—A friendship visiting group of the Communist Party of China led by Ding Fengying, member of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of the Communist Party of China and secretary of the Hubei Provincial Party Commission for Discipline Inspection, arrived here today by plane.

Reception Held on 44th Anniversary of PRC

SK2809051493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0429 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 28 (KCNA)—The Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Central Committee of the Korea-China Friendship Association arranged a reception at the People's Palace of Culture Monday on the occasion of the 44th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

Invited to the reception were Chinese Ambassador to Korea Qiao Zonghuai and embassy officials and Chinese guests staying in Korea.

Addressing the reception, Chong Chun-ki, chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, said the victory of the people's revolution in China and the foundation of the PRC on October 1, 1949, were the great gains won by the Chinese people through the protracted, arduous yet glorious struggle and an epochal event which opened a broad avenue for the building of a new life in China.

"We wish the fraternal Chinese people greater success in their efforts to achieve socio-political stability, accelerate the modernization of the country and build socialism with Chinese characteristics in response to the tasks put forward at the 14th congress of the Communist Party of China," he said.

He expressed support and solidarity with the party, government and people of China in the efforts to realize the reunification of the country according to the policy of "one country, two systems" without outside interference.

"Korea-China friendship," he said, "has been forged and fostered by the great leader and the dear leader of our people together with Chinese leaders." "The traditional Korea-China friendship is now developing on good terms though the international situation is complex," he added.

"We believe that the traditional Korea-China friendship which was forged in the struggle for the common cause and stood historical trials will continue to strengthen and develop by the joint efforts of the two peoples," he concluded.

Speaking next, Chinese Ambassador Qiao Zonghuai said that at the time when the national day of China is being celebrated with pleasure, the Korean people, under the leadership of their great leader Comrade President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il and the Workers' Party of Korea, have made great achievements in the socialist construction under the banner of the three revolutions ideological, technical and cultural, by constantly adhering to the road of socialism and displaying the revolutionary spirit of independence and sovereignty and self-reliance.

Noting that the "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" advanced by Comrade President Kim Il-song is evoking great repercussions from among peoples of different countries, the ambassador said: "The Chinese people have consistently supported the Korean people's just cause of the independent and peaceful reunification of the country and will as ever continue to support the party and government of Korea in all their efforts to relax the situation of the Korean peninsula."

"Sino-Korean friendship is based on a solid foundation as it was established and nursed by Comrades President Mao Zedong and Premier Zhou Enlai and Comrade President Kim Il-song", he said, and stressed: "The friendship has steadily strengthened and developed under the care of the party and state leaders of the two countries even in a great change of the international situation. This fact shows this friendship has strong vitality."

"We are firmly convinced the Sino-Korean friendship taking its roots deep in the minds of the two peoples will surely be handed down through generations and will shine for ever."

KCNA on Symposium of Overseas Korean Scholars

SK1909111793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1013 GMT 19 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 19 (KCNA)—The 14th symposium of overseas Korean scholars for national reunification was held in Los Angeles from September 10 to 12 on the subject "Implementation of North-South Agreement and Great National Unity", according to the "U.S.-Korea News".

It was attended by more than 300 overseas Korean scholars and public figures from different places of the United States, Canada, Europe, Japan and other regions.

In his opening address, Choe Kyong-tae, director of the National Reunification Institute, said that 70 million fellow countrymen must turn out in the efforts to implement the "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" advanced by President Kim Il-song, mindful that this is a program of national salvation indicating a way for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country under the present situation.

Prof. and Dr. Yang Un-sik, permanent chairman of the U.S. Headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon), in his keynote report noted that one spiritual basis of unity is love for the nation and another is the independent spirit of the nation. Both the North and the South must reconcile and unite with each other and open up a way of reunification on the principle of recognizing and respecting the ideas, ideologies and systems of the other side and of promoting coexistence and coprosperity of the two systems, he said.

National reunification to be accomplished through the implementation of the North-South agreement cannot be otherwise than reunification through confederacy, he said, and stressed:

An unprecedented unified confederal state in which two different systems coexist and coprosper will become a new model of politics and cultures, in the world as a country which maintains an independent line and nonaligned neutral line and aspires after peace.

The "third Los Angeles declaration for great national unity and promotion of national reunification" was adopted on September 12.

The great national unity is a prerequisite for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country and a new phase for reunification can be opened through the correct implementation of the North-South agreement only when the 70 million Koreans are united into one, he said, calling upon all the Koreans in the North, the South and overseas to unite under the banner of national reunification, transcending differences in ideas, religious belief, political views and systems.

The South Korean "regime", the declaration said, must clearly liquidate the remains of the past military rule and take the stand of national independence, not depending upon the outside forces. And the United States Administration must not change its choice of the three-point principles including the settlement of the nuclear problem agreed upon at the Korea-U.S. talks but correct its Korea policy in favour of the Korean nation's movement for independence, democracy and reunification.

Government Opens Embassy in Mexico City

SK2609095093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0812 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 26 (KCNA)—The Embassy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has opened in the United States of Mexico.

At the press conference held on September 22 in this regard, Korean Ambassador to Mexico Kim Sung-yong said that the DPRK Embassy opened in Mexico City on September 20 amid the deep concern of the two governments and the two peoples of Korea and Mexico, stressing that it would mark an epoch-making occasion in further developing the friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples.

The DPRK will make positive efforts to strengthen and develop the friendly and cooperative relations with Mexico in all spheres, he added.

KSDP Chairman Meets Turkish Party Delegation

SK2209131193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1115 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 22 (KCNA)—Kim Pyong-sik, chairman of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Korean Social Democratic Party [KSDP], today met and had a talk with a delegation of the Workers' Party of Turkey led by Vice-Chairman Mehmet Bedri Gulterkin in a friendly atmosphere.

Meeting Marks Guinea-Bissau Proclamation

SK2309051093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 23 (KCNA)—A meeting commemorating the 20th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau was held here Wednesday.

Present at the meeting were Yi Chol-sin, vice-chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries and vice- chairman of the Korea-Guinea-Bissau Friendship Association, other officials concerned and working people in the city.

A speech was made and a congratulatory message to the president of the State Council of Guinea-Bissau adopted at the meeting.

Kim Il-song Receives Delegation From Mali

SK2309114993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 23 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the delegation of the Sudanese Union-African Democratic Rally in Mali headed by secretary general of its direction committee Amadou El Becir Gologo on a visit to Korea.

Present on the occasion were Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea,, and Kim Yang-kon, deputy director of a department of the WPK Central Committee.

President Kim Il-song had a talk with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

He gave a luncheon for the guests.

SKNDF Spokesman Comments on Kim Yong-sam Speech

SK2609103893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0820 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 26 (KCNA)—Spokesman for the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon) on September 23 published a commentary exposing the deceptive nature of the "policy speech" of Kim Yong-sam at the "National Assembly", according to the "Voice of National Salvation".

The spokesman said:

The "policy speech" of Kim Yong-sam is no more than a normal one seeking stability of the ruling system and an unbearable mockery of the people aspiring after true democracy.

Although he in his speech vociferated about achievements of the "civilian government," nothing has essentially changed in South Korean society. The "National Security Law", "Security Planning Board" and the "Secret Affairs Command", the core objects of reform, still exist, core elements with vested rights remain yet in the military though personnel reform was done, many prisoners of conscience are still in jail and prisoners are again on the increase.

Kim Yong-sam's clamour about "change" and "reform" is a brazen jargon.

The true democratic reform wanted by our people can be realised only by the struggle of our people themselves.

People of all strata should not seek to compromise or petition, taken in or dazzled by the false reform but turn out as one in the struggle to realise a true democratic reform.

Hanminjon, together with the entire people, will energetically fight to scoop out the structural contradictions

of South Korean society and achieve independence, democracy and reunification.

Newspapers Criticize Speech

SK2509114093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 25 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON today brand Kim Yong-sam's "policy speech" September 21 at the "National Assembly" as a political swindle characterized by brag and hypocrisy devoid of political philosophy.

NODONG SINMUN in a signed commentary titled "Political Charlatan's Hypocrisy and Brag" says:

His speech revealed once again his mode of existence based on formality and favour-hunting, rather than substance.

Although the South Korean ruler has made much ado as if to bring about a great change through "reforms" over the six months or more since the emergence of the "civilian government," he has carried out only superficial "reforms," not touching anything fundamental and cardinal.

Only a few criminals who had piled illicit fortune by abusing government power were imprisoned while such fundamental issues as the abolition of the "National Security Law" and other fascist laws, the disbandment of the "Security Planning Board" and other repressive machines and measures to provide the people with freedom in social and political life and in the debate on reunification remain untouched. Calling this his "achievements" is a mockery of the people.

Kim Yong-sam talked as if the "civilian government" had any connection with the pro-democracy resistance movement, though he hailed tear gas-firing and club-wielding down on the people who rose in struggle demanding the punishment of the chief culprits of the Kwangju bloodbath. This only shows his low sense of morality.

He mentioned "reunification through three stages" which merits no attention because it was a repetition of the division-oriented "reunification formula" of his predecessors.

What draws serious consideration is that while quietly putting on the shelf the theory of "attaching priority to the nation" which he set out in his inauguration speech, he tried to vilify the North over the fiction of "nuclear suspicion" invented by outside forces and wagged his tongue as if they wanted dialogue.

Thus he tried to shirk the blame and incite confrontation while bringing forward nothing new concerning reunification. This eloquently showed once again that he has no willingness to improve the North-South relations and solve the reunification question and that he is no more than a political charlatan seeking continued division and his personal pleasure under the "protection" of outside forces.

Daily Questions ROK Officials' 'Nationalism'

SK2709105493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 27 Sep 93

["'Nationalism' Unbecoming to Treacherous 'Regime'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 27 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in a signed commentary today says that the South Korean rulers are harping on the ballad of "nationalism" with claptrap tactics as if they do something beneficial for the nation.

The South Korean rulers have advertised "civilian government" from the outset clamouring that only their regime has "national legitimacy". And talking about "national self-pride", they took measures of pulling down the building of the past "government-general" of the Japanese imperialists in Korea and moving the remains of those who were connected with the "Shanghai interim government" to South Korea.

The "policies" of the present South Korean "regime" and the remarks of the ruling quarters eloquently prove how ridiculous the attempt of the rulers to put a veil of "nationalism" on this "regime" is, the paper says, and goes on:

The South Korean rulers, talking about the "international mutual assistance system" regarding the nuclear problem, are busy on the international arena begging for "punishment" and "sanctions" against fellow countrymen. It is aimed at doing harm to the fellow countrymen in collusion with outside forces on any account under the pretext of the fictitious "nuclear problem" of the North.

They are claiming that the resumption of the North-South dialogue is a precondition for the third-stage DPRK-USA talks an working hard to apply the brake to the progress of the talks. This goes to prove that the South Korean rulers do not want to settle the nuclear problem of the Korean peninsula between the South and the North nor do they want to see it settled through negotiations between the DPRK and the United States.

To do harm to the fellow countrymen in collusion with outside forces keeping close to the latter while keeping themselves away from the former is an out-and-out flunkeyist treachery and has nothing to do with nationalism.

The ballad of "nationalism" on the lips of the South Korean ruling quarters is another deceptive act to veil the true colour of the flunkeyist and treacherous group. The South Korean people are opposed to the "reform" claimed by the "civilian" rulers, asserting that it is not "reform" but a change for the worse.

It is clear that the South Korean ruler is making a fool of people with the ballad of "nationalism" in a bid to boost his prestige that has fallen to the ground and save the "civilian government" from the crisis.

The ballad of "nationalism" cannot change the flunkeyist and traitor to the nation into a patriot.

ROK-Japan Foreign Ministers Meeting Criticized

SK2709051793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0445 GMT 27 Sep 93

["Servile Submission to Japan"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 27 (KCNA)—South Korean "Foreign Minister" Han Sung-chu, on a trip to Japan, had a foul confab with Japanese counterpart Hata to do harm to the DPRK after meeting with Prime Minister Hosokawa on September 24, according to a report from Tokyo.

At the confab he expressed "apprehension for the development of nuclear weapons in the North," which has neither willingness nor capability to make nuclear weapons, and asked Japan to "continue its cooperation in settling the matter.

This is a despicable submission to Japan of the South Korean authorities who are currying favour with Japan, regarding it as the savior, and it is a base act of making last-ditch efforts to maintain the crumbling "international mutual assistance system".

Han Sung-chu begged for Japan's pressure on the DPRK, prattling that the talks between the DPRK and the International Atomic Energy Agency have made no progress and the North-South dialogue has failed to resume. This well proves that the South Korean authorities are dirty persons who take no notice of the nation and are lost to shame, and out-and-out flunkeyists and traitors to the nation.

If he had had a bit of national conscience, he should surely have brought to light the issue of the "comfort women for the army" and other matters with which Japan inflicted immeasurable misfortunes and sufferings upon the Korean people, and called it to account. But he, not mentioning it, made foolish remarks about Japan's activities in UN peacekeeping or admission to UN permanent council membership. This only discloses the flunkeyist and traitorous color of the South Korean authorities.

He, referring to the third stage DPRK-U.S. talks, spelled out a cock-and-bull story that "conditions for resuming talks have not been created yet," which reveals that they are displeased with the talks.

The South Korean authorities are trying to gratify their wild dream to stifle us by fawning upon outside forces and inviting them, taking no account of the North-South dialogue and DPRK-U.S. talks. But they must act with discretion, clearly seeing that their foolish efforts will bring self-destruction.

Daily Publishes Article on 'Spy Ship' Case

SK2609104493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0829 GMT 26 Sep 93

["Clumsy Pretext"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 26 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities are alleging that it was not a spy ship but a "fish transport boat" that infiltrated into the western territorial waters of the North side on September 16 and that it accidentally crossed the sea boundary, drifting after losing direction due to "disorder of compass." This is a far-fetched allegation and brazen-faced sophism which cannot go down with anybody. NODONG SINMUN says this in a signed commentary.

The South Korean ship which infiltrated deep into the territorial waters of the North side irrefutably proves that it is a spy ship in view of its tactical and technical characteristics, in view of its various apparatuses and the adventurous "relief operation" of the enemy and its infiltration was carried out with scrupulous preparations beforehand.

No matter how desperately the South Korean authorities may try to veil the spy ship case with a clumsy pretext to throw off the track of their misdeed, they cannot rid themselves of the criminal responsibility for infiltrating the spy ship into the territorial waters of the North side.

The infiltration of the spy ship into the territorial waters of the North side by the South Korean puppets was motivated by the criminal purpose to neutralize the exchange of special envoys between the North and the South and thus lay difficulties in the DPRK-USA talks.

The infiltration of a spy ship to blockade the North-South dialogue and apply the brake to the DPRK-USA talks and coil up tensions reveals the anti-national color of the South Korean rulers who want neither improvement of the North-South relations nor solution of the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula.

The utterances of the South Korean authorities about "fish transport boat," "disorder of compass" and the like are no more than an ostrich belief to evade denunciation at home and abroad by covering the truth behind the crime.

The South Korean rulers must apologize to the nation for their grave military provocation.

Thanks Sent to Soldiers

SK2609093193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0807 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 26 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of

the Korean People' Army [KPA], sent thanks to the soldiers of Kang Pyong-ho's unit of the KPA.

The seamen of the unit who had been on a routine guard duty in defence of the sea of the country spotted on September 16 a spy ship of the South Korean puppets infiltrating into our territorial waters on a military espionage and urgently sailed to the spot and completely frustrated the enemy's frantic action through a brave combat action, thus capturing the spy ship and defending the sovereignty of the DPRK.

A ceremony conveying the thanks of Comrade Kim Chong-il was held on the spot.

Noting that it was entirely thanks to our patience and self-restraint that the infiltration of the spy ship did not develop into an armed clash between the two sides, the speakers warned that the South Korean puppets should look straight at the situation created on the Korean peninsula and act with discretion.

"Should the South Korean puppets continue committing reckless military provocations, our People's Army soldiers will mete out a severe punishment to the enemy," they stated.

A letter of pledge to Comrade Kim Chong-il was adopted at the ceremony.

Further on Kim Il-song's Memoir Distribution

SK2509055693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 25 (KCNA)—"With the Century", reminiscences of the great leader President Kim Il-song, was distributed to many houses around Yokchon-tong, Unpyong District, Seoul, on September 23, causing a big stir among the residents, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The book 8 by 13 centimetres was reportedly brought out in February this year.

The cover of the book is inscribed with the letters "With the Century, Kim Il-song's Reminiscences".

Trade Commission Inactive Due to Poor Economy

SK2209111393 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 22 Sep 93 p 8

[Text] The Fair Trade Commission [FTC], an organization overseeing the implementation of trade rules, is lowering its voice in the face of prolonged economic downturn.

Recently, the FTC shelved its earlier plan to introduce stricter anti-chaebol [conglomerate] regulations as businesses are increasingly grumbling about the government's clean-up drive.

The business community says the FTC's stepped-up activities to place constraints on big business groups have been chilling corporate investment psychology, complaining of the sudden impact of the real-name financial transaction system.

Until recently, the semi-governmental organization had been active in investigating irregularities in the business community, particularly targetting big business groups, under the initiative of its head Han Yi-hun.

Han, who is widely known as a key aide to President Kim Yong-sam in the economic sector and who took up the post in February, has led the FTC's strenuous activities, which focused on stamping out unfair activities involving big business groups.

He ordered his staff to probe internal trading among subsidiaries of business groups while trying to unveil their disguised subsidiaries. He also made public enterprises subject to anti-trust rules like private companies.

His initiative to strengthen anti-chaebol policies was seen as a well-devised plot coming in response to President Kim's reform drive.

But in recent weeks, the FTC has been inactive apparently due to the general social atmosphere that puts economic revitalization before anti-corruption.

Last week, the FTC shelved its plan to revise the Monopoly Regulation and Fair Trade Act. Initially, it had sought to reduce the ceiling of shares owned by big business groups in other companies to 25 percent from the present 40 percent by amending the anti-trust law.

It also hoped to introduce a new clause providing for a ban on the business practice, which had authorized group owners to use corporate funds for private purposes.

FTC officials said they have reached a consensus on withholding their activities temporarily in consideration of the looming economic downturn.

They said the strengthening of fair trade rules might throw cold water on already-depressed investment sentiments, further slowing economic recovery.

The FTC believes that this is not the proper time to place additional burdens on companies, which are struggling to cope with the adverse impact of the real-name system.

Officials say the FTC's recent soft posture is in line with the government's commitment to revitalizing the economy.

Economists forecast that the country's economic growth will hover around 4 percent for the whole of this year as business balks at large investment. In the first half of this year, economic growth stood at a decade low 3.8 percent.

The FTC, however, says it will revitalize its activities to investigate misdeeds in the business sector next year, when the economic recovery comes in sight.

KCNA Highlights Kwail County Fruit Farm

SK2709125793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 27 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song recently gave on-the-spot guidance to the Kwail County integrated fruit farm.

Going round different branch farms of the farm where fruit trees have borne abundant fruits, President Kim Il-song expressed great satisfaction with the fact that the agricultural working people have brought bumper fruit.

Kwail County, South Hwanghae Province situated in the western central part of Korea is a great orchard.

The orchard of over 8,000 hectares has different fruit trees such as apple, pear, peach, grapes, plum, apricot, persimmon, jujubes and European cherry.

Rich apples, pears and others are now being picked.

An estimated fruit yield for this year is 20 percent higher than the last year, a bumper year.

Kwail County is an important fruit supply base for Pyongyang citizens as it is near to Pyongyang and conveniently situated.

Farm Achieves 'Bumper Year'

SK2809120393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 28 (KCNA)—A bumper year has visited the Sariwon fruit farm situated in the outskirts of Sariwon, North Hwanghae Province, about 50 kilometres South of Pyongyang.

The farm foresees that 1.5 times as much fruit as last year will be picked this year.

Some 200 more tons of grapes have been gathered than last year.

A major fruit producer of the nation on the western hilly countryside, the farm produces grapes and other early-ripening fruits, apple, pear and other kinds of fruits.

The great leader President Kim Il-song chose the site of the farm during the fatherland liberation war.

During the hard-fought war, he sent saplings of fruit trees to the farm.

Later he guided the farm on the spot on several occasions, clearly indicating the path ahead of the farm.

The farm has turned into a large-scale fruit farm with 1,100 hectares of orchards and with solid processing and farm machine repair bases.

The farm produces large quantities of fruits including thousands of tons of grapes every year.

Grape is a special product of the farm.

More than 60 kinds of grapes including delicious and high-yield Korean grape are cultivated on hundreds of hectares of land.

The mechanisation level of the farm is high.

The farm has about 100 trucks, tractors and trailing farm machines. Nearly all work including weeding, manuring and spraying of agricultural chemicals is done by machines.

The technical forces are so strong that the orchards are cultivated in a scientific and technical way.

The fruits, fresh or processed, are supplied to Pyongyang, Sariwon, Songrim and other areas.

South Korea

DPRK To Refuse Inspections if IAEA Adopts Plan

SK2709123893 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1205 GMT 27 Sep 93

[By correspondent Cha Man-sun from Vienna]

[Text] The ROK has declared that it should become a member country of the Standing Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

Science and Technology Minister Kim Si-chung revealed today at the IAEA general session that the ROK policy is aimed at contributing to the peaceful use of atomic energy. He said to the delegates from the 114 countries attending the meeting that the ROK will play a leading role in revising the IAEA's Charter.

Minister Kim said this because the North Korea's nuclear issue threatens the existence of the Korean peninsula and peace in the world. He stressed that the IAEA general session should positively seek a measure for North Korea to implement the nuclear safeguard accords.

In the meantime, IAEA Secretary General Hans Blix revealed that North Korea sent a message to the IAEA saying that if the IAEA general session adopts a resolution, North Korea will refuse to receive any inspection.

Proposal To Hold Talks Refused

SK2709133893 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1300 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Report by AFP-YONHAP News Agency from Vienna]

[Text] Hans Meyer, spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], revealed today that North Korea has refused to accept the IAEA's proposal to hold the second round of negotiation regarding nuclear inspections in Vienna.

Spokesman Meyer said that Choe Hak-kun, minister of North Korea's Atomic Energy Industry, sent a letter to

the IAEA informing it of this. Spokesman Meyer said that North Korea claimed in the letter that the IAEA should be held responsible for a grave consequence which will arise [yagidoel chungdaehan kyolgwa] for making it impossible to hold nuclear negotiations.

The first negotiations between North Korea and the IAEA were held in Pyongyang early this month. The second negotiation had been scheduled to be held in Vienna between 5 and 8 October.

North Korea's decision is aimed at coping with the fact that the IAEA Board of Governors meeting adopted a resolution expressing deep apprehension because North Korea has not allowed the IAEA to thoroughly inspect its nuclear facilities.

Further on Reported DPRK Military Build-Up

SK2809061493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0601 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Washington, Sept. 28 (YONHAP)—Military sources played down Tuesday reports by Japanese news organizations of a North Korean build-up in areas along the truce line.

"They seem to have reported some North Korean moves too much from the military side," one source told YONHAP.

They admitted, however, that North Korea is reinforcing and would not rule out the possibility that it is heightening tension on the Korean peninsula to be in a better position in its nuclear negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

They said they did not rate the North Korean moves as military threats or preparations for an attack against South Korea.

Japanese journalists may have sensationalized North Korea's military buildup in order to rationalize Tokyo's establishment of a missile defense system, they said.

"We have seen North Korea deploy arms on the truce line several times before," the source said. "South Koreans need to look out for that kind of movement, of course. But I don't think it's a situation they should worry about so much."

NHK and other Japanese news organizations reported on Monday that North Korea recently intensified military activities, was building up arms along the truce line and had drastically improved various items of military equipment.

U.S., DPRK Hold Secret Talks in New York

SK2709122693 Seoul YONHAP in English 1212 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 27 (YONHAP)—The United States and North Korea have held secret working-level talks in New York on several occasions last week, the MAINICHI SHIMBUN of Japan reported in a dispatch from Washington on Monday.

Quoting a senior U.S. Administration official, the newspaper said that through the working-level talks, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci, who is chief U.S. negotiator in high-level U.S.-North Korea nuclear talks, sent a message to his North Korean counterpart, first Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-chu.

The report said that Gallucci, however, did not mention about the issue of North Korea's stance toward the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) on the ground that if he did, it would make things further complicated.

At a working-level meeting held on Sept. 20, the United States strongly urged North Korea to resume talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and South Korea, it said.

However, the United States, while ignoring the threat Kang made in his Sept. 16 message that North Korea would retract their earlier decision to withhold withdrawal from the NPT, only stressed that North Korea should carry out what were agreed on at the second-round high-level meeting in Geneva.

MAINICHI added that the United States had decided not to deal frontally with North Korea's alleged intent of retraction in the belief that the threat stemmed from their "negotiation strategy."

'Discord' Predicted Over U.S. Embassy Rental Fee

SK2809021793 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 28 Sep 93 p 1

[Text] There are signs that the issue of collecting the rental fee for using the U.S. Embassy building will spark a diplomatic discord.

According to materials submitted by the Foreign Ministry to the National Assembly for the investigation of state affairs, the government demanded the rental fee from the U.S. side by pointing out that the United States does not own the U.S. Embassy building. However, the United States, raising opposition pertaining to its legal position concerning this building, has been refusing to negotiate on the issue of the rental fee.

When construction of the U.S. Embassy building in the ROK started in 1962, the ROK and the United States agreed that the ROK will have ownership of the building and the U.S. Operations Mission to the ROK [USOM], a U.S. foreign assistance organization, and its succeeding organizations would use this building free of charge as long as the Mutual Defense Treaty is effective.

The United States Agency for International Development-Korea, which was a successive organization of the

USOM, completely withdrew in September 1980. However, the United States has been using this building free of charge for the past 13 years since that time.

The government is planning to raise the issue of the rental fee for this building when James Laney, the new U.S. ambassador, comes to office around 8 October. However, there is a great possibility that this issue will develop into diplomatic friction between the ROK and the United States unless the U.S. side changes its attitude.

Diplomatic Relations With Taiwan To Be Resumed

SK2809134693 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1300 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Report by AFP-YONHAP News Agency from Taipei]

[Text] The Taiwanese Foreign Ministry revealed on 28 September that the ROK and Taiwan, which severed diplomatic relations in August 1992, will reopen missions in each other's capitals within the next two months.

(Kuyang Chu-shung), spokesman of the Taiwanese Foreign Ministry, said to reporters on 28 September that it is expected that Taiwan and the ROK will establish missions in each other's capitals. He also said that the missions will be established in October at the earliest or December at the latest.

In this connection it is anticipated that a high-ranking Taiwanese official will be dispatched to the ROK as the representative of the mission and that the ROK will take the same measure as Taiwan.

It was learned that the ROK delegation recently visited Taipei to carry out preparations for the exchange of missions.

Plans for Private-Level Relations With Taiwan

SK2509021293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0023 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 25 (YONHAP)—The government plans to set up a branch office of the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), a Foreign Ministry-affiliated organization, in Taipei in mid-October in order to establish unofficial ties with Taiwan, a Foreign Ministry official said Saturday.

The official said that the Foreign Ministry has been studying various ways to form unofficial relations with Taiwan, and it has decided on the KOICA branch.

There is a possibility that South Korea and Taiwan could set up a private representative office in each other's capital, he said, asking that he remain anonymous.

He said most of the work for setting up private-level ties with Taiwan have been completed, except for two or three items that include the status of the officials of Taiwan's office in Seoul.

The government hopes to set up the office in mid-October, he added.

The two countries will start negotiating for reopening of the air route between Seoul and Taipei after setting up the private office, he said. A civil aviation agreement, which was signed by the governments of the two countries, will then be concluded on the private level, he said.

The government will give consular status to Taiwan's representative office here so that it can issue visas to South Korean visitors to Taiwan. South Korea, on the other hand, will issue visas to Taiwanese in Hong Kong.

ROK, PRC Officials To Meet at APEC Summit

SK2809031093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0214 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] New York, Sept. 27 (YONHAP)—The South Korean and Chinese foreign ministers, Han Sung-chu and Qian Qichen, agreed in principle on Monday to arrange a summit during the economic leaders' meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in Seattle in November.

Han, meeting Qian at the United Nations, where they are attending the general assembly, suggested having the Seoul-Beijing summit during the APEC conference.

Qian responded favorably, saying the two leaders would have a chance to meet naturally if Chinese leader Jiang Zemin decides to go to the Seattle conference.

Han expressed concern at North Korea's refusal of dialogue with South Korea and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and asked Beijing to persuade Pyongyang to come to the negotiating table.

Seoul accepted Pyongyang's proposal to exchange presidential envoys, but North Korea refuses inter-Korean talks, Han was quoted as telling qian.

The Chinese foreign minister emphasized that the two Koreas need to talk, saying Beijing wants to see them solve Pyongyang's nuclear problem through inter-Korean dialogue.

Qian was quoted as saying that the dialogue is probably stalled due to "technical" obstacles such as a lack of confidence in each other.

The two foreign ministers agreed that they should work together for early conclusion of an aviation pact to open a direct route between their capitals.

Han, scheduled to meet over 20 counterparts and heads of state during his stay at the United Nations, talks Tuesday with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev.

Summit Date Fixed

SK2809111093 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1010 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] It is has been decided that the Seattle Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] summit meeting will be held for two days beginning 19 November, and U.S. President Clinton has recently sent President Kim Yong-sam an invitation to the summit, a Foreign Ministry official said today.

The Foreign Ministry official said that it is almost certain that the top-level leaders of 12 APEC member states, except Malaysia, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, will attend the summit. He added that vice-premier-level officials from Taiwan and Hong Kong are expected to attend the summit in consideration of the position of China, which insists on one China doctrine.

Chinese Vice Premier To Visit 27 Sep

SK2309101593 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0908 GMT 23 Sep 93

[By reporter Yi Tong-sik from Beijing]

[Text] The Chinese Foreign Ministry said Vice Premier Li Lanqing will visit the ROK for six days from 27 September to 2 October.

Vice Premier Li Lanqing will host "The Day of China" at the Chinese Exposition Hall in Taejon when he comes to the ROK. This is the second trip to the ROK by a PRC vice-premier since establishing ROK-PRC diplomatic relations. Li served as minister of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade and was promoted to vice premier this spring. He is also an expert of the Chinese economy.

Satellite Manufacturing With PRC To Be Discussed

SK2809061093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0455 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Taejon, Sept. 28 (YONHAP)—South Korea and China, paving the way for possible joint development of space, signed a contract on Tuesday under which they will open discussions on ways to jointly manufacture medium-sized satellites.

Choe Sun-tal, head of the satellite research center at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), and Li Zuhong, Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Space Technology (CAST), signed the contract in a ceremony in the Chinese pavilion at the Taejon Expo, where Tuesday was China's national day.

If the two institutes get the go-ahead from their governments, they will jointly manufacture a medium-sized science satellite, to be called Uribyol III.

Choe said he selected cast as KAIST's partner for technology cooperation on Uribyol III because China has the technology for building both satellites and rockets, and is readier to transfer technology to South Korea than advanced countries.

China has an advanced aerospace technology and has launched 36 satellites. It has the technology to build satellites as well as to stabilize satellites in orbit.

It has not been able, however, to miniaturize satellite parts because of its low technology in electronics and semiconductors. This is the weak point of Chinese satellites, which become bigger and heavier as their functions are enhanced.

It is the reason China needs Korea's advanced technology in the fields of semiconductors and electronics, Choe said. KAIST's satellite research center has already launched Uribyol I and Uribyol II.

The center plans an observation and communications satellite about seven times the size of Uribyol II, launched Sunday by a French Ariane rocket from French Guiana.

The Uribyol III project will cost about 22 million U.S. dollars and manufacturing will begin next year for a launch in 1997.

The satellite will most likely be built at KAIST's satellite research center in the Taetok research complex, where Korean scientists built Uribyol II and have an earth station.

Former Opposition Leader Meets With Gorbachev

SK2809080793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0607 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, Sept. 28 (YONHAP)—Former opposition leader Kim Tae-chung met with former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Monday afternoon and they exchanged views on unification of the Korean peninsula and the situation in Northeast Asia.

Kim explained his three-stage unification plan to Gorbachev.

"It is desirable that South Korea pursues gradual reunification through a commonwealth, rather than Seoul's absorbing Pyongyang," Kim told Gorbachev.

"It is important to reunification that Seoul and Pyongyang make dialogue and negotiation," Gorbachev replied. "Russia will play a needed role in unification and will cooperate at any time.

"The unification of the Korean peninsula should not take the form of absorption like Germany. Seoul and Pyongyang will keep a system, which is acceptable to both sides, for a certain period and will continue negotiation. So the unification will take some time."

The two signed a memorandum that says Kim's Asia-Pacific peace foundation and the Gorbachev foundation will cooperate and will exchange information and personnel.

"The four powers in Northeast Asia—the United States, Japan, Russia and China—should have consultations to establish a permanent peace system in this region and I have a willingness to arrange such a meeting," Kim said.

In a speech the next day at Moscow University, Kim said that Russia will have to play a bigger role in unifying the Korean peninsula.

"Russia and the United States had the biggest responsibilities in dividing the Korean peninsula in 1945, so Russia should play a bigger role in bringing about unification of the Korean peninsula along with the United States just like it did in unifying Germany," Kim said.

Firms To Suspend Pursuit of Investment in Russia

SK2509005293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0101 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 24 (YONHAP)—The political turmoil in Russia has scared off South Korean corporate investment, industry sources said Friday.

Major business groups are keeping abreast of the developments in Russia since President Boris Yeltsin declared dissolution of parliament and called for an early general election on Wednesday through reports from their offices there, the sources said.

They are said to have decided to put off direct investment and suspend shipments except for planned exports until the volatile political situation calms down.

The Daewoo Group, which had been active in seeking joint ventures to build electronics and bus assembly lines in St. Petersburg, says the project is off for the time being.

Lucky-Goldstar says it won't pursue advancement into Russia until late this year on condition that the parliamentary elections have a concrete outcome.

It will fulfill current orders, but suspend new contracts and long-term shipments to the country.

The Hanhwa Group, known to have been making great inroads into the Soviet bloc and Eastern Europe, will put off investment talks with Russia and Georgia for now.

"The Russian political state had been shaky several times this year, which could have damaged bilateral exchanges and investment, but we were okay every time," a source said.

"Reformers may get the better of the situation as they have support from the people, military, and western countries and our worries may prove premature," he said.

The sources said that the investment environment might worsen if the conservatists seize power and shrink the market economy.

Russia may become more stable and its market may be more accessible once the power struggle between reformers and conservatists is over, a Korea Trade Promotion Corp. director for Russia said.

Scientific Cooperation With Israel To Begin

SK2809090093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0825 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Tel Aviv, Israel, Sept. 28 (YONHAP)—The South Korean and Israeli Science and Technology ministers exchanged a memorandum on stronger bilateral scientific and technological cooperation in a historic meeting Tuesday.

Kim Si-chung and Shulamit Aloni signed the memorandum, which pledges efforts to step up science and technology cooperation in the private sector, during ground-breaking talks in Tel Aviv.

Kim is the first Korean cabinet minister to officially visit the Jewish state in a show of Seoul's new policy on relations with Jerusalem since its peace accord with the Palestine Liberation Organization earlier this month.

Israel and South Korea will set up a joint committee to materialize and pursue agreed scientific and technological projects.

The agreement provides a basic framework of bilateral cooperation in the science and technology field and the ministers promised to encourage closer ties and contact between think tanks and research arms in each country and each government.

Exchange of the memorandum is a prelude to an agreement, which is important for Korea as it is increasingly difficult to acquire technologies from advanced countries like the United States and Japan, a Ministry official accompanying Kim said.

The official predicted cooperation would lead to joint projects between Israel's Weizmann Research Institute and the Korea Institute of Science and Technology, and among research institutes, universities and academic institutes in the two countries.

Korea seeks joint research and development in bioscience, aerospace, new materials, lasers and basic science through workshops and seminars, he said.

Although it has had diplomatic ties with Jerusalem since 1962, Seoul has so far been timid in developing bilateral relations in consideration of its oil dependency on Arab countries and its profitable construction contracts throughout the Middle East.

ROK, Lithuania To Sign Trade Protection Agreements

SK2309103093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0636 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 23 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Lithuania sign agreements on trade and investment promotion and protection Friday, giving each other Most-Favored-Nation [MFN] status, the Foreign Ministry announced Thursday.

Seoul's Vice Foreign Minister, Hong Sun-yong, and Lithuania's Trade-Industry Minister, Kazimietas Klimasauskas, will sign the two agreements on Friday [24 September] afternoon.

MFN status applies to tariffication, import permits and quotas, scope of business activities in each other's nation and protection of assets, the Ministry said.

South Korea and Lithuania normalized ties in October 1991.

North's Negotiations To Import Oil Fail

SK2609062793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0556 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 26 (YONHAP)—North Korea recently held behind-the-scenes negotiations with Venezuela and Libya to import crude oil from them but failed to narrow the differences with them on terms of the trade, the National Unification Board (NUB) reported on Sunday.

As the oil imports from China became more difficult, North Korea tried to import oil on a barter system from the countries, which never accepted the North Korean offer.

The oil-producing countries asked North Korea to pay for their oil in hard money including U.S. dollar, according to the report.

North Korea has imported oil mostly from China and Iran on a barter system, but China asked North Korea to pay in hard money from last year.

The Chinese demand dropped North Korea's oil imports from China significantly and caused serious oil shortage in North Korea, the report said.

Malta To Sign Notes Abolishing Entry Visas

SK2209093393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0703 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 22 (YONHAP)—South Korean Ambassador to Malta Yi Ki-chu and Maltese Vice Foreign Minister Victor Camilleri will sign notes on reciprocal abolition of entry visas on Thursday in Valleta, Foreign Ministry officials said Wednesday. Yi is also ambassador to Italy.

The accord allows people of both countries with valid passports to stay in the other country 90 days without a visa but not to take a job effective Oct. 22.

The agreement will help facilitate exchanges of people, trade and friendly relations between the two countries, the officials said.

Kim Yong-sam Reiterates Policy of Reform, Change

SK2709114393 Seoul YONHAP in English 1020 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 27 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam, declaring "there will be no setback in reforms and changes," said on Monday that the "march toward reconciliation and future" he stressed in his recent address at the National Assembly meant a call for participation in reforms and changes by all people.

While meeting with reporters at Chongwadae [presidential offices], President Kim said that his call for a future-oriented march and reconciliation did not mean an aboutface of his hitherto reform policies.

Likening reforms and changes to repairing a worn-out house, Kim stressed that rotten flesh should always be cut out in order to build a sound society.

"There will be no economic invigoration without curing the Korean disease,'" he said, reiterating there will be no halt to he on-going reforms and changes.

Net External Debt Reported Under $10 Billion

SK2809061693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0515 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 28 (YONHAP)—South Korea's net external debt has fallen below 10 billion U.S. dollars, according to a Finance Ministry report submitted to the National Assembly on Tuesday.

Korea's net external debt was 9.74 billion dollars at the end of June, off 3.09 billion dollars from 12.83 billion dollars a year earlier. This was 3 percent of the Gross National Product [GNP].

Foreign liabilities rose 3.01 billion dollars to 43.85 billion dollars (13.7 percent of GNP) from 40.84 billion dollars in 1992.

Despite the surge in foreign liabilities, net external debt fell because overseas assets grew 6.11 billion dollars to 34.12 billion dollars from 28.01 billion dollars on increased overseas investment.

KCIA Accused of Kim Tae-chung Abduction

SK2809083393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0755 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 28 (YONHAP)—Ruling Democratic Liberal Party Chairman Kim Chong-pil said on Tuesday

that neither he nor then-president Pak Chong-hui had advance knowledge of the abduction of Kim Tae-chung in Tokyo by the Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA), but former KCIA Director Yi Hu-rak knew all about the incident.

"Not only I but also President Pak came to know about the abduction only after Mr. Kim was brought back to Korea," Kim told reporters over lunch. "What I did as prime minister was to diplomatically settle problems that arose from the incident.

"Since the abduction was done entirely by former KCIA Director Yi Hu-rak, ask him and then you will know everything about the case.

"A sailor of the Yongkum-ho (the ship that carried Kim from Japan to Korea) said he learned of the abduction only after Kim was taken to the ship. I doubt that an aircraft followed the ship.

"Because it was pitch dark that night, no aircraft could fly. Former U.S. Ambassador Donald Gregg's recent remarks that there was no U.S. aircraft chasing the ship support my speculation.

"There was no talk about an aircraft right after the case, and it was some time later that talk began about an aircraft that had allegedly chased the ship," Kim said.

NSP Reportedly Spies on Dissident Groups

SK2609085693 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 16 Sep 93 p 19

[Text] The Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] has come under suspicion that it spied on dissident organizations' activities by conspiring to win a dissident group's leading member over to its side, even after the Kim Yong-sam government was inaugurated.

The National Alliance for Democracy and Reunification [Chongukyonhap], whose Standing Committee is chaired by Yi Chang-pok, said on 15 September that it had expelled Kim Kwae-sang, 48, member of the Chongukyonhap Central Executive Committee and permanent co-chairman of the Chongukyonhap branch in Kyonggi Province's southern area, because it proved that he had spied for the NSP for the past two years.

According to Chongukyonhap, from April 1991, when he was acting chairman of the National Alliance of the Country's Reunification [Pomminnyon] South Side's Headquarters Executive Committee, until August 1993, after the new government was inaugurated, Kim Kwae-sang made frequent contacts with NSP agent Kim Chu-ho. He handed over materials about Chongukyonhap activities, decisions made during the group's various meetings, and important documents concerning Pomminnyon, the National Assembly's general elections, and presidential elections.

It has been learned that Kim Chu-ho is a high-ranking official who has worked for the NSP for 20 years.

In a statement written at Chongukyonhap on 23 September, right after his spying activities were revealed, Kim says: "I usually met Kim Chu-ho in a chess room or a tearoom near Seoul's Sobu Station and gave him various information materials. I also contacted Chang Yong-chu, another agent of the NSP Investigation Section, and a policeman of the Security Division of the National Police Agency."

Kim also states: "Most of the information I gave them in 1991 were materials related to Chongukyonhap policies on Pomminnyon and the pannational rally. In 1992, I handed over materials concerning decisions made in various meetings of Chongukyonhap, which was newly inaugurated then; the National Assembly's general elections; and presidential elections. This year, I provided them with various information materials related to elections of the Chongukyonhap leadership and its policy on the promotion of the pannational rally.

In particular, Kim along with Co-chairman Ko Kwang-sok and other members of an eight-member Chongukyonhap delegation, participated in political negotiations with the Democratic Party during the last presidential election. In light of this fact, Chongukyonhap assumes that details of important secret information about the progress of negotiations and dissident organizations' election strategies were handed over to the NSP.

According to the investigation conducted by Chongukyonhap, Kim took one or two additional copies of the minutes and documents of the meetings he attended, and directly delivered them to the NSP agents as soon as the meetings were over.

When questioned by the Chongukyonhap leading group, Kim acknowledged his activities as a spy and said that "he received from 30,000 to 50,000 won from the NSP agents each time he contacted them," and insisted that "his activities were aimed at protecting Chongukyonhap and helping it hold meetings and demonstrations without difficulty."

The NSP arrested Mr. Kim in 1991 on charges of violating a National Security Law but he was released on probation that year. Chongukyonhap believes that it was at this time when the NSP threatened and persuaded him to work for it.

Chongukyonhap wondered how the important contents of its sessions were provided in detail to intelligence organizations and, thus, started investigating its members. As a result, Mr. Kim was found to be a suspect.

On the evening of 29 July, Chongukyonhap witnessed at the Seoul station Mr. Kim gaving an NSP agent the documents of the Central Executive Committee meeting held on that same day. Since then, it continued to watch him and, on 23 August, it finally received a statement from him saying he had worked for the NSP.

As soon as Chongukyonhap started investigating him, Mr. Kim resigned from the post of co-chairman of the

Chongukyonhap branch of Kyonggi Province's southern area. It is known that he is currently resting at a prayer house in Taepaek city, Kangwon Province.

Chongukyonhap said, however, that Mr. Kim Chu-ho, who is an NSP agent, met on two occasions with Hwang In-song, chairman of the Chongukyonhap Executive Committee, in late August and asked him not to reveal his name because he had "contributed to the national security and wants to retire from his duty honorably."

Concerning this the NSP said: The Chongukyonhap committee for independence and reunification wanted to hold the pannational rally every year along with Pomminnyon, which is defined as a force benefiting the enemy. In the course of this, the NSP tried to understand the moves of the North Korean or overseas forces that wanted to harm the national security, and to prevent an act that would have harmed the national interest. This is a normal NSP activity.

The NSP did not mention, however, its action of collecting information from Mr. Kim Kwae-sang regarding political consultations between the then Democratic Party and Chongukyonhap during the presidential election.

Man, Sister Caught Allegedly Spying for North

SK2509022293 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 25 Sep 93 p 3

[Text] The Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) has arrested a man and his younger sister on suspicion of having spied for North Korea in collaboration with anti-South maneuvering organizations based in Japan.

The two were referred to the Seoul District Prosecutor's Office yesterday to be indicted on espionage charges after they were formally put under arrest with court warrants on Sept. 10, a spokesman said.

The two are Kim Sam-sok, 28, who was a researcher at the policy department of the "coalition for anti-nuclear peace movement," and Kim Un-chu, 24, an employee at New Core Department Store in Seoul.

Miss Kim was nabbed by NSP investigators first on Sept. 8 at a place in Seoul where she was receiving documents for spy activities from an liaison agent from Japan, and her brother was caught at his house in Toksan-tong, Kuro-ku, Seoul, according to the spokesman.

They are suspected to have received a total of 1.2 million yen as operational funds from a North Korean spy organization in Japan in return for providing documents classified as military secrets to the group.

They also allegedly received Kim Il-song's memoir, entitled "Along With the Century" and other documents from the spy ring, and turned them over to "Hanchongnyon," or the Korean Federation of University Students' Councils, the spokesman said.

The NSP is continuing investigation of the liaison organization which delivered documents to Kim Un-chu and of possible local networks, the spokesman added.

Construction of 14 Nuclear Plants Scheduled

SK2809090193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0819 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 28 (YONHAP)—South Korea will build 14 new nuclear reactors capable of producing 12.8 million kilowatts of electricity in five places, including three existing power stations, of the country by 2006, the Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry said Tuesday in a report to the National Assembly.

The report says the Ministry will finalize the plan by the end of November.

Three power plants will be built on idle land inside Yongkwang, Wolsong, and Kori nuclear power stations.

Candidate sites for the two other power stations are Konduk in Kangwon Province, Pyonghae and Konnam in North Kyongsang Province, and Dokyang, Taedok, Toyang, Aphae, Hwangsan and Hwayang in South Cholla Province.

The Ministry will select two sites and then ask residents to cooperate for construction of the nuclear power plants, officials said.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Leaves for UN General Assembly Meeting

BK2609073293 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has left for London en route to New York to attend the 48th session of the United Nations General Assembly. He is accompanied by his wife, Datuk Sri Datin Paduka Dr. Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali. Speaking to newsmen in Sungei Patani earlier, the prime minister said he will touch on the Bosnian problem in his address at the UN, because Malaysia is still not satisfied with the way the countries of Europe are handling the Bosnian issue. One instance was the issue of aid to Bosnia. He will touch on a wide range of other issues, including the role of the media and the need for the restructuring of the UN Security Council.

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Cambodia's Constitution

BK2509075693 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0656 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sept 25 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Malaysia Saturday welcomed Cambodia's adoption of a new constitution and pledged continued assistance towards the country's reconstruction programmes, the Foreign Ministry said. The smooth promulgation and adoption of the constitution demonstrated the Cambodian people's determination to achieve durable peace, national reconciliation and development, the ministry said in a statement here.

The visionary leadership and far-sighted wisdom of King Norodom Sihanouk Arman has been crucial in this democratic process, it said.

The 70-year old Sihanouk signed the new constitution frisday and became King of Cambodia again after 23 years. He would preside over a constitutional monarchy.

The statement said Malaysia would support Sihanouk and the Cambodian government's continued efforts to bring long-term peace and stability in that country. Malaysia and Cambodia, which have long enjoyed close traditional ties, could together strengthen friendship and cooperation towards promoting peace and stability in the region, it said. As a close neighbour, Malaysia would continue to assist Cambodia together with the rest of the international community, the statement said.

The adoption of the new constitution ended the role of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia since March 1992.

Government Lifts Sanctions on South Africa

BK2509033393 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0313 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sept 25 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia will take immediate steps to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level with South Africa, Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Friday. He said Malaysia would also lift trade and economic sanctions against South Africa with immediate effect.

This stand was taken following the passage of a bill yesterday by the South African Parliament on the formation of a Transitional Executive Council (TEC). Abdullah said in a statement issued in New York where he is attending a United Nations meeting. The statement was released here. (The TEC will pave the way for a multiracial rule in place of the White supremacy apartheid policy).

Abdullah said that with the development, and the agreement to hold elections in April 1994, the final stage towards the irreversible transition to a democratic, united, and non-racial South Africa had at last been reached.

In line with the decision of the Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Harare in October 1991, Malaysia will lift trade and economic sanctions against South Africa with immediate effect, Abdullah said. He added that with the lifting of these sanctions, members of the private sector of the two countries were now free to enter into trade and economic relations with each other.

Abdullah said the decision to establish diplomatic relations with South Africa was made in the interest of promoting and enhancing mutually beneficial relations between the two countries.

Malaysia wishes to express its readiness to cooperate with South Africa in its efforts to uplift the social and economic conditions of its people, he added.

Eighty-Four SRV Refugees Leave for Home 20 Sep

BK2409101893 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 22 Sep 93 p 10

[Excerpt] Petaling Jaya, Tues.—Eighty-four Vietnamese boat people left for home under the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) voluntary repatriation programme yesterday. The 48 men, 23 women, and 13 children had taken advantage of the programme introduced in 1990, said the principal assistant director (repatriation) of the Vietnamese Boat People Task Force, Nik Kamaruzzaman Murad. They joined another 2,219 who had gone home, while 8,439 others are awaiting resettlement at the Sungai Besi camp here. [passage omitted]

Regional Center Issues Statement on Piracy

BK2409053093 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0351 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sept. 24 (OANA-BERNAMA)—A total of 83 piracy attacks worldwide were reported to the International Maritime Bureau Regional Piracy Centre (RPC) for the first eight months of this year. This was an increase from 69 cases last year and 52 cases for 1991 for the corresponding period, an RPC statement Friday said. Of the 83 cases reported, 73 cases or 88 percent happened in Asian waters.

At the Straits of Melaka, four piracy incidents were reported in Indonesian waters and one in Malaysian waters. This was a decline from seven cases last year and 13 cases in 1991 for the corresponding period.

The centre listed the Hong Kong-Luzon-Hainan area and the East China Sea as the current danger areas for piracy. Among the vessels involved were 28 general cargo vessels, 12 tankers, 12 bulk carriers, and eight container carriers.

Daily Assesses UK Prime Minister's Visit

BK2609110193 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 24 Sep 93 p 12

[Editorial: "A meeting of mutual interests"]

[Text] It must be something of a record for Malaysia to have been visited by the immediate past and the present prime ministers of Britain within the space of a few weeks. Lady Margaret Thatcher was here earlier this month for a seminar on Asian leadership and Prime Minister John Major has just left after a two-day official visit. These visits underline the cordial relationship between Britain and Malaysia.

This is not to say that there has never been any friction in the conduct of affairs between the two countries. Not too many years ago Malaysia had to resort to a "Buy British Last" policy over differences on a number of important issues. Since then, both countries have not only overcome the past but have successfully forged bilateral relationships and ventures in many fields, leaving the policy but a distant memory.

For better or for worse, Britain and Malaysia have had fairly long historical ties, one as the colonialist, the other the colonised. But that should not be a stumbling block to further cooperation, neither should it be a licence for nostalgic nonsense. It is not a special relationship between a former colony and its former master but one where business must be done between sovereign states.

This is precisely what is happening and, as a sign of the times when economic cooperation holds sway, Malaysian companies and their British counterparts signed, during John Major's visit, four memorandums of understanding and one contract involving billions of ringgit covering the manufacture of buses and coaches, steel fabrication, construction of facilities at the new international airport at Sepang and the building of power generation plants.

These are substantial infrastructure projects and as Malaysia's industrialisation proceeds, many more such projects will be undertaken. As Lord Prior, the leader of the business delegation accompanying the prime minister said, the trip has opened doors for British industry here and more big orders can be expected to be secured by British companies.

These transactions benefit everyone. As Major himself says, British exports to Malaysia are not inconsequential for they translate into 25.000 jobs for British workers. Future contracts will create more employment, which must be a welcome prospect for a country whose unemployment rate is in excess of 10 percent. This does not mean that Malaysia is getting the short end of the stick. As it progresses, it needs to put up numerous facilities and it is good sense to do business with partners one is more familiar with.

It is not surprising therefore for Major to characterise his Malaysian trip as "very fruitful". This is not the impression one would gather, however, from the London newspapers. A few have chosen to dwell at length on our prime minister's speech at the formal dinner in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Major. Dr. Mahathir rightfully asked Britain to reconsider its position on Bosnia- Herzegovina because as a UN Security Council permanent member and a constituent of European community Britain could have played a more pivotal role to halt the atrocities.

Unfortunately, and true to form the British press has chosen to sensationalise Dr. Mahathir's speech and has treated this as a vitriolic attack on British policy. His country's newspapers notwithstanding, John Major can return to London with satisfaction that his trip to Malaysia has helped to further strengthen an already cordial and even-handed relationship between the two countries.

Cambodia

Ranarridh: Government Not To Be Formed Until Oct

BK2809065493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0615 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Sept 28 (AFP)—Cambodian government leaders said Tuesday that even though the top three positions in the new administration have been filled, the rest of the government cannot be formed until October.

Co-prime ministers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen were appointed by the newly enthroned King Norodom Sihanouk on Friday. But they have yet to form a new government, instead keeping the interim administration in place until a new cabinet can be confirmed.

"First we have to go to New York," Prince Ranariddh said, in order to attend the United Nations General Assembly.

The U.N. peacekeeping mission, whose last mandated task was to supervise the formation of the new government, considered the top three posts sufficient. Its top brass packed up and left over the weekend.

Cambodia's newly transformed National Assembly was to have confirmed a new chairman and two deputies in its first meeting since the Constitution was adopted last week, but assembly members said it would have to wait until the completion of internal regulations.

When the regulations are drafted, the delegation returns from New York on October 6, the assembly chairman is chosen and the National Assembly is submitted a list of proposed new cabinet ministers, then the new government will be formed, the assembly members said. The number of ministers will be reduced to 18 from 27, and deputy ministers will not remain as members of cabinet, Hun Sen said.

Prince Ranariddh said the Interior Ministry and National Security Ministry—which were given separate identities only in early 1992—might be merged again.

"You know in a liberal state, we don't need a Gestapo," he said. "All the parties agree the number of cabinet members must be reduced."

The separation of the portfolios was believed at the time to have been in order to create a cabinet position for one of the close associates of strongman Chea Sim.

Chea Sim was thought to be the most likely candidate for National Assembly chairman, a relatively powerful position, in a power- sharing deal worked out between the two main parties representing the co-premiers.

"There's no deal," Prince Ranariddh said. "The formula is coming from my father (King Sihanouk) and we have to talk about it."

Cambodian politicians said they were also faced with the difficult prospect of forcing the acting National Assembly chairman Son Sann, Cambodia's most elderly statesman, out of his post if Chea Sim replaces him.

During the assembly meeting Son Sann urged national reconciliation, which is still threatened by the radical Khmer Rouge.

"The struggle for power among ourselves, the killings without discrimination, our violent and revengeful attitude, the exaggerated abuses of power are the sources of our division and of the long misery of our Khmer people," he said.

"Today we are meeting in order to bring forth a new order, that is to say an order born from the atmosphere of national reconciliation, in order to build mutual understanding and mutual loving care as Khmers born with the same blood patern, in order to build a state of permanent peace," he said.

Ranariddh: Government 'May Try To Seize' Pailin

BK2809024093 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh, first prime minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, recently said that the major issue facing the new government is how to deal with the Khmer Rouge. He also said that if the Khmer Rouge are sincere in the desire to have a role in the new government, they ought to hand over to the government the territory they control in Pailin in northwest Cambodia. He further pointed out that if the Khmer Rouge do not do this, government troops may try to seize this area at a time when the Khmer Rouge welcome the restoration of monarchy in Cambodia.

The Khmer Rouge have criticized the new Constitution saying that Cambodia is still under Vietnam's occupation and is not yet a sovereign and independent country and nation.

Ranariddh Visits Khmer Rouge Defectors

BK2609145793 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] On the morning of 26 September, Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh, first prime minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia and commander in chief of the Khmer Royal Armed Forces [KRAF], accompanied by Prince Norodom Sirivut, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation; His Excellency [H.E.] Ek Sereivoat, deputy minister of information and press; H.E. Ke Kimyan, chief of the KRAF General Staff, visited (?466) Democratic Kampuchean troops who deserted the party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] and turned to join the KRAF at the KRAF reunification center at Dei Et village in Kien Svay District of Kandal Province.

Speaking on that occasion, Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh said he was very glad that the compatriots from the PDK volunteered to join the national government. He added that following the recent formation of the National Assembly there was a (?significant historic period) reflecting the achievement of national unity and reconciliation under the leadership of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and the cool shade of our Cambodian people.

In conclusion, the prince called on the Cambodians of all circles, particularly the Khmer Rouge, to return and join the KRAF so as to defend our nation, throne, and king.

Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh also distributed gifts, including a sum of 2 million riel, clothes, soap, cigarettes, and medicines, (?to the reunification center).

AFP Cites UNTAC's Akashi on Rehabilitation Work

BK2309020693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0159 GMT 23 Sep 93

[By Philippe Agret]

[Text] Takeo, Cambodia, Sept 23 (AFP)—As the U.N. presence in Cambodia winds down, the world body is hoping to build a foundation for Cambodia through its rehabilitation program for schools and hospitals destroyed by 23 years of war.

"You are the future of this country, you are the future leaders," the head of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) Yasushi Akashi told a group of pupils during a visit to a devastated school here. UNTAC has been involved in the reconstruction of Takeo's primary school as part of its rehabilitation program, one of the mandates of the U.N. mission. It has also been involved in the rebuilding of a clinic in Kampong Ro, in the neighboring province of Svay Rieng, that served 50,000 people.

Akashi said UNTAC wanted to create the conditions for a better transition in Cambodia, adding that despite the end of the UNTAC mandate with the setting up of the new Phnom Penh government, the U.N. presence would not completely disappear.

The United Nations is backing some 32 reconstruction projects—mainly schools, clinics and drinking water systems—in 15 of Cambodia's 20 provinces, at a cost of 325,000 dollars.

Financing for the projects is to be provided through the Kampuchea Emergency Trust Fund as well from voluntary contributions from donor countries. A dozen projects, prepared by U.N. provincial officials in conjunction with local authorities, have already been completed, with the rest to follow by the end of October, when the last U.N. contingents are due to leave Cambodia. However, the UNTAC rehabilitation program has been the target of critics who say the U.N. has done too little too late, citing difficulties in the rebuilding of the Kampong Ro clinic. But the U.N. defended its performance, saying that of the 800 million dollars in aid promised by donor countries at the Tokyo Conference in June 1992, only 250 million had materialised in Cambodia.

There are still more than 200 other projects proposed by UNTAC that are ready to be undertaken.

UNTAC will leave behind in Cambodia a mine clearing center that had been set up with UN funds and expertise. Akashi wants to "Cambodianise" this centre and the level of local staffing will soon be increased from 50 percent to 75 percent. Between two and 10 million mines are still buried across Cambodia, which experts say is one of the major obstacles to resuming agricultural production. The United Nations is also to set up in December a human rights committee to oversee the human rights situation under the new government.

UNTAC Chief Leaves With 'Regret, Satisfaction'

OW2609091393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0701 GMT 26 Sep 93

[By Masanori Kikuta]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Sept. 26 KYODO—UN chief peacekeeper Yasushi Akashi left Cambodia on Sunday [26 September] with feelings of regret and satisfaction after helping restore democracy to the war-torn country during his 18-month mandate. He left aboard a special UN plane from Pochentong Airport in suburban Phnom Penh where he first set foot March 15 last year as head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

"I regret that one of the four parties who were present at the airport at that time is missing today," Akashi said in a farewell statement on the airport tarmac, referring to the dissident Khmer Rouge group. "Nevertheless, I take a deep satisfaction in the fact that UNTAC has been able to fulfill its task of aiding the Cambodian people to begin their historic march toward peace, national reconciliation, democracy and prosperity," he said with his voice choked by emotion.

"I am very proud of our work, although my sense of satisfaction is mitigated by the sorrow for the loss of valuable lives of people of many nationalities, including Cambodians, who dedicated themselves to the noble cause of peace," he added.

Among hundreds of well-wishers at the airport were Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, top leaders of the new Cambodian Government.

"Finally, Akashi became a great Cambodian," Ranariddh said after seeing him off. "He came here as a Japanese, as representative of the (UN) secretary general and he went back as a great Cambodian."

Ranariddh also said his father, King Norodom Sihanouk, officially invited Akashi during a farewell palace audience overnight to visit Cambodia as his special guest in November, when the country celebrates the 40th anniversary of independence, or December.

Akashi's departure formally ended the 2 billion dollar UNTAC operation—the biggest and costliest mission in UN history—which had a peak force of some 22,000 members during polls last May. He told an airport news conference that although UNTAC is leaving, there will be a "much smaller and more modest" UN presence to help Cambodia reconstruct its shattered economy, protect human rights and clear countless land mines.

"I will rate our operation as nine on a scale of 10," Akashi said. "I will rate the performance of Cambodian voters as 9.8."

Almost nine in 10 registered Cambodian voters went to the polls, defying threats to their lives by the Khmer Rouge.

The communist guerrillas boycotted the elections and have refused to disarm despite signing a peace accord in 1991 with rival factions to end 13 years of war.

"The happiest moment of my life was on May 23, the first day of elections, when Cambodian voters came to vote massively and very happily to exercise their rights as democratic citizens," Akashi said. "There were tense moments but at no point I lost hope about our ability to carry out our objectives," he added. [sentence as received]

Last Japanese Peacekeepers Leave for Home

OW2609020693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0144 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Sept. 26 KYODO—A group of 150 Japanese engineering troops left for home Sunday [26 September], completing the withdrawal of Japanese members of a United Nations peacekeeping mission in Cambodia. It also marked an end to Japan's first overseas ground troop deployment since World War II.

The troops from the ground Self-Defense Force were scheduled to arrive at Chitose base in northern Japan aboard a U.N.-chartered plane Sunday night after a refueling stopover in Manila. They were part of a second 600-member engineering battalion which served for half a year in southern Cambodia after replacing the first battalion that also had a six-month stint. The rest of the second contingent returned home earlier this month.

The battalion has left behind about 10 million dollars worth of equipment and supplies at its Takeo base, about 75 kilometers south of Phnom Penh, as donations for use in the country's socioeconomic development.

Japan sent about 1,300 peacekeepers to Cambodia, including military observers and civilian police as well as the 1,200 engineering troops.

Radio UNTAC Ends Successful Broadcasts 23 Sep

BK2709032793 Phnom Penh AKP in French 1027 GMT 24 sep 93

[Text] Phnom Penh 24 Sep (AKP)—Radio-UNTAC, the Cambodian voice of the United Nations, ended its broadcasts on Wednesday, 23 September, at 1000 [0300 GMT] after fulfilling its duty for 13 months in Cambodia.

The transmitter, some 10 km southwest of the capital with three local relay stations (Sihanoukville to the south, Siem Reap to the west, and Stung Treng to the east), covers 90 percent of the Cambodian territory and reaches 7-8 million persons.

Radio-UNTAC—the English acronym for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia—as everybody calls it here, can lay claim to having a part in bringing 90 percent of the participants to the May elections, a feat which bewildered both diplomats and observers.

Even the Khmer Rouge, according to the officials of the radio, were listening to its programs.

It retransmitted electoral spots, political conferences, and debates of the Constituent Assembly, the first in Cambodia. During the campaign, 150 copies of tape recordings were distributed everyday in the provinces to explain the proceedings and results of the elections to the peasants.

Khieu Samphan Sends Greetings to Sihanouk

BK2609052093 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Message of greetings from Party of Democratic Kampuchea Chairman Khieu Samphan to head of state Norodom Sihanouk; dated 23 September—read by announcer]

[Text] To His Royal Highness Preah Norodom Sihanouk, king of the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia, at the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh:

Your Respected Highness, on the solemn occasion of your ascension to the throne—as king, you will be respected and loved by the Cambodian nation and people because you have dedicated your whole life and strength over half a century to defending the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia—all of us in the Party of Democratic Kampuchea would like to have permission to join the entire Cambodian nation and people in expressing our most intense joy at this most solemn historic political event.

We all wish Your Royal Highness all the best. May the ascension to the throne of King Preah Norodom Sihanouk and the return of the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia bring national reconciliation and peace as well as glory to the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia, endowed with independence and sovereignty within its territory, in the shade of the rule and charisma of Your Royal Highness.

We would also like to wish King Preah Norodom Sihanouk and his royal wife the best health and longevity. May you enjoy Lord Buddha's five blessings; that is, longevity, social prestige, happiness, strength, and enlightenment.

Your Royal Highness, please accept the most sincere, profound, respectful, and affectionate sentiments from us all.

Your Royal Highness, please forgive us for any inconvenience.

[Dated] 23 September 1993

[Signed] Khieu Samphan, chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea

Khmer Rouge Reiterate Support for King Sihanouk

BK2709122793 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Station editorial: "It is Necessary To Rally National Forces in Support of King Father's National Reconciliation Plan, Thus Allowing Cambodia To Regain Peace, Independence, National Unity, Sovereignty, and Territorial Integrity"]

[Text] His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk was again crowned as King of Cambodia on 24 September 1993. Our entire Cambodian nation and people are welcoming this event with the hope that during King Father's reign, our nation will again achieve national reconciliation, thereby allowing the nation to regain peace, independence, and national unity within its full territorial integrity as in the Sangkum Reas Niyum era. Nonetheless, the path toward our nation and people's light of hope is still full of obstacles and difficulties. The nation and people's enemies, both old and new, are employing all manner of maneuvers to extinguish that light of hope:

1. They have repeatedly opposed King Father's being a king endowed with rights and power;

2. They have repeatedly opposed the national forces' achieving national reconciliation; and

3. They have assiduously preserved 99 percent of the Vietnamese-installed state power for the purpose of using it to put pressure on other political parties.

These problems are not new. They are old and have occurred before and after the Paris accord was concluded, during the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] mandate, and at present. In other words:

1. Despite the existence of the Paris accord, the Vietnamese and their puppets as well as the alliance in and outside UNTAC did not, during the transitional period, hand over rights and power to King Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], and to the four-party SNC, a national reconciliation body. They continued to maintain the structure installed by Vietnam in 1979 from top to bottom.

2. After the UNTAC-organized elections, they have persistently refused to transfer power to the winning party. On the contrary, they have stuffed the election winners into the Vietnamese puppet cage, allowing the Vietnamese and puppets to trample on and squash them at will.

So, it can be seen that the Vietnamese are willing only to hand out an empty shell that looks impressive, but they keep for themselves the meat and all that is important. The Vietnamese tricks look very ugly; they were used very effectively in Laos.

The Vietnamese and their puppets intend to apply on Cambodia the same ploy used by the Vietnamese Communist Party and the Pathet Lao to liquidate King Savang Vatthana and Prince Souvannaphouma. But we are dealing here with Cambodia. The Vietnamese, the puppets, and the alliance can never stir up cloudbursts at will. The Cambodian nation and people, first, have King Father as their king devoted to reuniting all national forces, thus allowing them to reach national reconciliation and achieve national cause, peace, independence, unity, neutrality, territorial integrity, and nonalignment as before 1970. Secondly, they have the entire national forces that are experienced and in perennial support of King Father's national reconciliation plan. As for the Vietnamese aggressor forces, the Vietnamese puppets, and the alliance, what are they doing? They are supporting the corrupt force that the entire nation and people have categorically opposed. They are like aquatic plants or hyacinth that float nowhere and that can never resist the stream of national reconciliation of King Father. The Cambodian nation and people firmly believe in King Father and the entire national and popular forces.

Khmer Rouge Seen as 'Weakened and Isolated'

BK2809025893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0248 GMT 28 Sep 93

[By Philippe Agret]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Sept 28 (AFP)—The Khmer Rouge, weakened and isolated, find themselves with their backs to the wall after the restoration of Cambodia's constitutional monarchy. According to political analysts in Phnom Penh, the hard line rebel group, still directed behind the scenes by Pol Pot, the man who ordered Cambodia's notorious killing fields, is faced with its worst crisis since the Vietnamese army routed them in 1979.

It would probably be misguided to predict the disintegration of the movement, which has its basis in Maoism and is well known for its shocking capacity to survive. But between 1,200 and 2,000 of the rebels have deserted in recent weeks to join Cambodia's new national army, U.N. and government sources say.

The defections hit hardest in the feared 616th division, based in the north, and in a move unseen since 1991, veteran commanders of the four regiments surrendered. For the most part, the deserters are ordinary soldiers, and with the exception of a handful of officers, newly-recruited young peasants.

Analysts say however they believe the tough core of the guerrilla group remains intact.

According to deserters, many of whom were seduced by a government amnesty, the Khmer Rouge rank and file are suffering from sagging morale and are attracted to the idea of a new peace in Cambodia. The defections are a blow to the Khmer Rouge, which analysts estimate numbered some 10,000 before the surrenders.

A government counter-offensive flushed the rebels out of parts of their territory, and forced them to abandon their key supply centre along the Thai border. The government, some of them former allies who fought alongside Khmer Rouge guerrillas against the Vietnamese, have turned their their weapons against the rebels, but their casualties have been low.

Cut off from their bastion of Pailin in northwest Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge have seen the borders of the territory they controlled, prior to the arrival of U.N. peacekeeping forces in March 1992, shrink drastically.

Even the Thai army, which reportedly offered hefty assistance to the Khmer Rouge during Cambodia's civil war from 1979 to 1991, shows signs of growing impatient with the rebels' uncompromising stance. And politically the Khmer Rouge have been marginalised after having boycotted and tried in vain to sabotage U.N.-run elections in late May, which garnered a heavier-than-expected voter turnout. Since the polls the guerrillas' outrageously nationalistic propaganda machine has been running on, but on an empty tank.

The Supreme National Council, representing Cambodian factions participating in the drafting of the Paris peace accord in November 1991, has officially disappeared with the promulgation of the Constitution. Banned from the council and internationally unrecognised, the Khmer Rouge has been reduced to requesting an "adviser" role in the government.

According to political observers, the rebels are now trying to buy time while hoping beyond hope for the fall of the coalition government.

"They have no choice," co-Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh said.

"Either they take part in the national community, conforming with all of its laws, or they become outlaws.

"There are no longer any Khmer Rouge or Jaune (Red or Yellow Cambodians), only Khmers," Prince Ranariddh said Friday as more former guerrillas defected to the side of the new government.

The political survival of the Khmer Rouge will become clearer next month in Phnom Penh, where leaders, under the auspices of King Sihanouk, have invited the rebels, who have signalled approval of the reestablishment of the Sihanouk-led monarchy, for talks on their future.

Indonesia

PLO Chairman 'Arafat Begins Visit 24 Sep

BK2409073293 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Our state guest, Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat, who was accompanied by [Indonesian] Defense and Security Minister Edi Sudrajat, performed Friday prayers at Baiturrahim Mosque situated inside the Merdeka Palace compound. President Yasir 'Arafat and his delegation will later lay a wreath at the Kalibata Heroes Cemetery. Meanwhile, tete-a-tete talks between President 'Arafat and President Suharto will take place at Merdeka Palace at 1500 West Indonesian Standard Time today. The Palestine president and his wife Suha, who arrived in Jakarta at about 1000 West Indonesian Standard Time, will attend a dinner banquet to be hosted by President and Mrs. Suharto at the State Palace tonight.

Holds Talks With Suharto

BK2409125393 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] President Suharto and Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat held one hour of tete-a-tete talks at Merdeka Palace in Jakarta this afternoon.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Minister and State Secretary Murdiono briefed newsmen on the results of tete-a-tete talks between President Suharto and President Yasir 'Arafat. President Yasir 'Arafat called on Indonesia to play a growing role in helping the Palestinian people after thanking Indonesia for its stance. In addition to greeting the guest, President Suharto also hoped that what had been achieved was the beginning of the Palestinian people's dream of having their own homeland, government, and nation. What the PLO has done will hopefully become a new breakthrough in efforts to settle the Middle East issue comprehensively. According to Murdiono, President Suharto is thinking of how to contribute to the development of Palestine.

[Murdiono] The president said Indonesia will seriously study what it can do concretely to help Palestine.

[Correspondent] President 'Arafat and his wife Suhaa will attend a state banquet tonight. They will end their two-day visit to Indonesia tomorrow. [end recording]

Meanwhile, replying to a question on the recent assassination of his close aide by unidentified gunmen, the Palestinian leader told newsmen this afternoon that the death of Muhammad Hashim Abu Syahban, whom he described as a hero, was a great loss for him. However, he said this will not slacken the Palestinian people's struggle which is always full of sacrifices.

Hosts Dinner; Pledges Support

BK2409155593 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] The Indonesian Government has stated its willingness to render its support on a limited basis in connection with the agreement signed between the PLO and Isreal—particularly in connection with transitional issues in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. This was stated by President Suharto in his address at a dinner he hosted in honor of the visiting state guest, the Palestinian president and his wife, Suhaa 'Arafat, at the State Palace tonight.

President Suharto said that because of the Palestinians' determination and courage, Indonesia will continue to stand behind the Palestinians in their long struggle toward determining their future destiny, which is considered bright. President Suharto believes that with the signing of the agreement, the Palestinian people's struggle will fulfill their much desired dream—which is independence and sovereignty in their own land.

According to the head of state, the historic agreement should be honored by all concerned parties and the international community should extend its full and true support.

President Suharto said Indonesia fully respects the Palestinian people's rights and sovereignty under the PLO leadership in determining the strategies and Palestine's tactical struggle for independence.

The dinner concluded with an exchange of souvenirs. President Suharto presented a gilded Balinese kris [traditional dagger], a brown silk shirt, and books on Indonesia to President 'Arafat while the latter presented a long gilded sword to President Suharto.

Meanwhile, Madam Suharto presented Mrs. Suhaa 'Arafat with a dinner set and a tea set while Mrs. 'Arafat presented Madam Suharto with a long red embroided dress.

The dinner was attended by Vice President Sutrisno, his wife, high-ranking government officials and cabinet ministers.

'Arafat on Israel-PLO Accord

BK2509032493 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat says the peace accord signed in Washington is an appropriate preliminary step aimed at achieving permanent and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. This kind of peace is for the benefit of not only Palestine, but also Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan.

The Palestine president said this to reporters after he held talks with President Suharto at Jakarta's Merdeka Palace yesterday. The new breakthrough between the PLO and Israel is comparable to a similar agreement reached by Nelson Mandela, a black African leader, and South African President de Klerk, but it is now facing difficulties.

Departs Jakarta for Turkey

BK2509131093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0328 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Jakarta, Sept 25 (AFP)—Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yassir 'Arafat left here early Saturday for Turkey via Calcutta after briefing President Suharto on the PLO-Israel accord on Palestinian autonomy.

Arafat had arrived here Friday with a nine-member delegation, including his wife Suhaa, and held talks with Suharto later the same day.

At a dinner for Arafat, Suharto announced that Indonesia would give "concrete aid" to help get the accord underway, "especially in the intermediary phase.

Dailies Comment on Yasir 'Arafat Visit

BK2509090193 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 25 Sep 93

[From the press review]

[Text] PELITA described the visit to Indonesia by Palestine president Yasir 'Arafat as part of his peace mission, which he has tirelessly carried out since the signing of the Israel-PLO peace accord some time ago. Earlier, he visited China. This means that being an astute freedom fighter, 'Arafat knows which country he must deal with so as to achieve his ultimate goal, namely, the establishment of an independent and sovereign state of Palestine.

Meanwhile, SUARA KARYA expresses its appreciation to the Indonesian Government's efforts to support the Palestinian people's struggle. The Indonesian people have indeed proved their consistent stand in supporting the Palestinian people's struggle. With the signing of the Israel-PLO peace accord on 13 September, their struggle has entered a new era.

REPUBLIKA says up to now, the Palestine president still seems to have difficulties in convincing his comrades-in-arms, both inside and outside the PLO, about the action he has taken. The problem is Israel's continued occupation of the Aqsa Mosque, considered the world's third most sacred Islamic shrine after Mecca and Medina, which has strongly hurt the feelings of Muslims. The occupation is made worse by the actions by Israel and its supporters, which have often hurt the feelings of Muslims.

Editorial Urges Bolder Policy in Middle East

BK2709140093 Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 16 Sep 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Indonesia Should Be Realistic on the Issue of Israel"]

[Text] The political developments in the Mideast were swift and beyond expectation. Prior to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat signing a peace agreement with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzak Rabin on 13 September in Washington, Israel had signed a peace pact with Jordan.

There is the possibility that sooner or later the other moderate Middle East countries will follow the example set by Palestine and Jordan.

Certain nations viewed the Palestine-Israel peace agreement as possibly placing them in a predicament. The countries felt that if they supported the Palestine-Israel peace agreement it would amount to recognizing Israel's existence. On the other hand, if they did not support the peace agreement, it would indicate that they were obstructing the Palestinian people's struggle to establish their own country.

As a result of such consideration, several countries have been cautious in acknowledging the Palestine-Israel peace agreement. Moreover, there are others who fear a sinister attitude by Israel with regard to the agreement.

How will Indonesia, as the leader of the Nonaligned Movement and a nation advocating and defending peace, react to the Palestine-Israel peace pact?

In his recent meeting with the Parliamentary Commission I, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas stated that Indonesia would consequently support the Palestinian people's just struggle in trying to regain the Israeli-occupied territories in their desire to establish a sovereign and independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

With regard to the question of recognizing Israel, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas was of the opinion that Indonesia still needs to cautiously observe the developments of the just-concluded Palestine-Israel peace pact.

Considering the remark by the foreign minister, we can assume that Indonesia is in an apprehensive position in anticipating the recent rapid developments in the Mideast. Apart from this, there are indications that Indonesia's "wait and see" attitude is a reflection that our country has not yet reached a stage where it could take the lead.

We should view the action taken by Palestine more realistically to see if such an action was really credible, instead of waiting indefinitely. It would be naive if we expect Palestine to acquire all occupied lands as a consequence of this process, when Israel currently possesses a strong international political lobby. Yasir 'Arafat's action could be considered a realistic approach for the time being and, therefore, Indonesia has the right to consider such action carefully before it finally extends its support.

In connection with such an issue, it would be pertinent for Indonesia to ponder wisely with regard to Israel—the latter being the key factor to the Mideast peace situation. As such, the other nations would, sooner or later, acknowledge Israel's existence just for the sake of maintaining global peace, particularly in the Mideast.

The Indonesian Government faces some psychological obstacles in its effort to readily recognize Israel and toward establishing diplomatic relations. One of the obstacles, for example, is connected with Israel's status as a Jewish nation. The Indonesian community considers the country to be a "cursed" nation which our country should not befriend.

The Indonesian Government would definitely face a complicated problem with regard to its domestic politics if such a psychological obstacle exists. In fact, we should separately consider Israel as a nation and Judaism as a religion. Egypt and Jordan are currently the only countries in the regional Islamic "rim" with the option of establishing relations with Israel just for the sake of bringing about a realistic opportunity for peace.

Compared to the Israel policy, Indonesia's previous resumption of diplomatic relations with the PRC was in fact a bold move, because Indonesia was directly involved in political conflicts with the PRC. On the other hand, we have no political conflict whatsoever with Israel, except that we need more time to give careful consideration with regard to our existing good and friendly relations with the other Middle Eastern nations.

As a populous nation and the leader of the Nonaligned Movement, which includes Palestine as one of its members, Indonesia should assume a position up front as an authority, instead of "peeping from behind the window curtain to see who takes the first step forward".

As a nation with an international reputation, we should expeditiously and wisely conform with the ongoing rapid global developments if we do not want to be left behind due to our archaic "wait and see" cultural disposition.

Let us be realistic in understanding that Israel exists and is one of the countries which holds the key to peace in the Mideast. Let us also wisely consider that what Yasir 'Arafat did was but a swift move for the time being—trying to avoid being continuously entangled in conflicts while other nations only provided lip service, declaring that they would struggle together with the Palestinians anywhere.

Philippines

Anti-Nuclear Group Opposes Entry of U.S. Ship

HK2409141093 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] The Nuclear Free Philippines Coalition [NFPC] has strongly opposed the scheduled entry into the Philippines of a U.S. warship, the USS O'Brien, which is to take part in military exercises in the country. NFPC Chairman Professor Roland Simbulan has said that the planned docking of a nuclear U.S. warship is a direct violation of the Philippine Constitution. The ship is scheduled to take part in a shoulder-to-shoulder exercise at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija.

[Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in English at 1300 GMT on 24 September reports the following: "Several progressive groups are protesting the arrival of the American warship USS O'Brien into Philippine waters. The League of Filipino students and the Nuclear Free Philippines Coalition are denouncing the O'Brien's arrival, saying it is a violation of the constitutional ban on nuclear weapons. The groups claim the O'Brien is a nuclear armed vessel and that its presence in Philippine territory is 'an arrogant display of U.S. military supremacy.'"]

Muslims Visit Iran for 'Ideological Formation'

BK2709065993 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 24 Sep 93 p 16

[Text] Suspected Filipino extremist fundamentalists have been using Pakistani-issued visas in trooping to Iran for their ideological formation.

A classified report of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) disclosed "Filipino, Indonesian and Malaysian scholars" have been using this modus operandi to thwart their governments' intelligence monitoring efforts to track their movements and identify their Iranian contacts.

"We have received reliable information that Filipino, Indonesian and Malaysian scholars taking up Islamic Studies in Iran are not issued visas at Iranian embassies in country of origin but instead secure their visas in a third country, usually Pakistani," the report said.

"Their visas are not stamped on their individual passport but on a separate official stationery bearing the letterhead of the IRI (Islamic Republic of Iran) Ministry of Interior."

The same report added the scholars were accorded extraordinary accommodation by some Iranian officials, thus, marking their special status in a country marked by Western intelligence and security services as the bastion of extremist fundamentalism in the Islamic world.

"Upon arrival in Iran, a residence permit is stamped on the same letter head to which the bearer's photograph has been affixed together with the arrival stamp by IRI immigration," the report narrated.

"Each scholar then receives a monthly stipend ranging from US$200 to US$300," it added.

"When the passport is due for renewal, the bearer is given one month's vacation to be spent in his country of origin where his passport is renewed."

In an apparent ploy to thwart their respective government's attempts to establish their contacts, the scholars never approach their embassies in Tehran.

"In no case does the scholar approach his embassy in Tehran for passport renewal," the document continued. "These scholars seem to be avoiding any contact with embassy officials and are tight-lipped about their studies."

Still, Filipino officials are wary of linking the Iranian and Pakistani governments to this suspicious operation.

"It is difficult to establish official collaboration," one DFA official remarked.

"It is true that (Iranian) President ('Ali Akhbar Hashemi) Rafsanjani's foreign policy is decidedly more accommodating to the West than that espoused by his predecessor, Imam Khomeini," he observed. "But then we also note that there is one precept of Iranian foreign policy that has remained constant due to its basis on the Koran, despite the change in govermnent, and that is its unqualified support for all kindred Islamic brethren of whatever nationality who are fighting to propagate and defend their heritage, especially in a perceived atmosphere of repression," he added.

Up to now, Iranian officialdom is bent on maintaining their image as the bastion and vanguard of the international Islamic revolution. So, they have a reputation to preserve." However, he cautioned this did not automatically translate to financial and even armed aid beyond more moral support.

Vietnam

Comments on Making of U.S. POW Film Reported

BK2709115393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Vietnamese Army paper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN on Monday carried an article on the fake filming of American prisoners in Ba Son Hotel of Ho Chi Minh City. Following is our radio comment on this event.

The fake filming of American prisoners was conducted on (?23) August in Ba Son Hotel of the Ba Son Complex of Ho Chi Minh City. The conductor was Nguyen Quang Thanh, a criminal who is hunted by Vietnam law on

killing his wife. Nguyen Quang Thanh was born in 1946 in Cam Lo, Quang Tri Province in Central Vietnam. His residence is at 36 Yen Bai Street, Da Nang City. He has fled to Cambodia where he met three Cambodian persons, one of them was (Sari) who acted as a mediator of a contract between Nguyen Quang Thanh and an American woman whose husband died in the Vietnam war. The American woman hired Thanh to shoot a film about American prisoners living in Vietnam. The contract was $1,000, and payment for accommodation and other expenses for the filming were covered by this American woman.

After signing this contract, Nguyen Quang Thanh and these three Cambodians illegally returned to Vietnam to make the film. As a close friend with Mr. H., an authorized person in Ba Son Hotel, Nguyen Quang Thanh started to shoot the film at this hotel. He deceived a Russian man whose name is Manulov, working on board the (Rangyip) Ship anchoring in Ba Son Port. Thanh said that he was making a film about the history of Ba Son Factory. He wanted Manulov to help him to make a good (?pitch) about the friendship between Ba Son Factory and Russian [word indistinct]. Manulov agreed and came to the hotel, but before the shooting, he was made up by Mr. H., Thanh, and other three Cambodian people into an old person as if he was an American prisoner. Manulov reacted as he recognized that he was asked to do things which was not what they invited him to do previously, and quarrel took place during the shooting. The hotel staff discovered the incident, and Thanh was captured with all the evidence. Nguyen Quang Thanh had to confess the whole story. He is now waiting for a trial by Vietnam legal offices.

It is clear that since 2 July when U.S. President Bill Clinton declared to unlock IMF from lending money to Vietnam, there are still many forces who oppose the normalization of relations between Vietnam and the United States. They persistently cook up fake evidence against Vietnam. First, they provided trick photos, and now made fake film. If this film was successfully made, it would have caused great impact on American public opinion. Nevertheless, the truth is always truth, and no one can cover the sun by his hands. The allegation would be sooner or later discovered.

Army Paper on 'Fraudulent' Film

BK2809050793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 27 Sep 93

[27 September QUAN DOI NHAN DAN commentary]

[Text] Attempts to set up a scene at the Ba Son Hotel of the Ba Son United Enterprise in Ho Chi Minh city to shoot a fraudulent film about live American prisoners of war in Vietnam were discovered at 0430 on the afternoon of 17 August 1993.

One of the masterminds and chief director, Long Veng, was captured red handed with his equipment as incriminating evidence. Long Veng's real name is Nguyen Quang Thanh. He was born in 1946 in Cam Lo of Quang Tri and resided at 36 Yen Bai Street, Danang City.

Thanh has been on the wanted list for four years now as he has committed an exceptionally serious crime. After going into hiding from Vietnamese law enforcement organs, Thanh illegally crossed the border into Cambodia. There he changed his name to Long Veng and lived with a Cambodian woman. During that period, he often secretly crossed the border to smuggle goods into Vietnam. Later, Nguyen Quang Thanh, with his identification papers bearing the name of Nguyen Tan, used to bring motorbikes for sale into Vietnam. After that he would return to Cambodia. With the use of many sophisticated and crafty tricks, Thanh was able to cover up his crime.

After his arrest, Nguyen Quang Thanh told our law enforcement organs about his participation in the filming of alleged American prisoners of war. The story is as follows:

In early August this year, an American woman arrived in Cambodia. She introduced herself as having a husband who was killed in action in Vietnam during the U.S. war of aggression against Vietnam. She had made contacts with many organizations and groups of people in Cambodia. Among these was (Paris), a man with an ambiguous background. [Words indistinct] (Paris) promptly agreed on a special contract. Immediately after this, (Paris) went to meet Nguyen Quang Thanh. He told Thanh that a certain American wanted to shoot a film about POW/MIA's in Vietnam. This film should be shot in Vietnam with Vietnamese settings and Vietnamese people. Only thus will the film have compelling power and high value, and would thereby fetch some money. If Thanh agreed to help, he would be paid $1,000.00 after the completion of the film. All the expenses for his trip, ranging from food, lodging, transportation to the hiring of a cameraman would be paid by the American woman.

Thinking this was a good deal, Thanh agreed immediately although he knew this was a dangerous mission, as he might be identified when he returned to Vietnam. A court sentence for a serious crime was hanging over his head. However, the strong temptation of the dollar caused him to plunge himself into traps and crimes.

On the morning of 15 August 1993, (Paris), Thanh, and two other Cambodians packed up their belongings and set out. They left Phonom Penh for the Moc Bai border gate. It was already dark when they arrived at Svay Rieng and spent the night at a local hotel. On the morning of 16 August, (Paris) gave some money to Thanh so he could buy travel documents and other necessary papers and bus tickets to go to Ho Chi Minh City. By the afternoon, Thanh had all the necessary papers and bus tickets. All the identification papers Thanh had bore the name of Long Veng. They then crossed the Moc Bai border gate on the same evening where all four of them checked into the Tan Binh hotel. On the morning of 17 August, (Paris) and his men hired a luxury sedan for their operations in

Ho Chi Minh City. After a night of thinking and deliberation, Nguyen Quang Thanh went to the house of an old man who was his longtime acquaintance and who had close connections with the Ba Son Hotel. Afterward, this old man led all four men to the hotel and introduced them to Mrs. H, an executive of the Ba Son hotel. Trusting her acquaintance completely, Mrs. H. immediately agreed to the venture, and invited them to sit while they waited. She then rushed to the Ba Son port to find a tall, slim, and a somewhat old Westerner to fit the character described by (Paris) in his script. It took only a while before Mrs. H. found a Russian sailor named Manulov.

Manulov was an electrician of the Russian ship (?Rangyip) anchored at the Ba Son Port. After the initial exchange of greetings, Mrs. H said: To mark the 2 September National Day, our factory is making a historical documentary on the factory which includes a footage about Vietnamese-Russian friendship. Therefore, we would like to invite you now to the factory's hotel to film that part. After that, we will toast our friendship.

Sailor Manulov nodded in agreement, but he said that he would come in the afternoon because he was too busy at the moment. On her way back to the hotel, Mrs. H entered the factory's propaganda office looking for the cameraman to tell him to come to work in the afternoon.

At the agreed time, a group of four people with Cambodian passports left their identification papers at the guard post and proceeded to a room already arranged by Mrs. H. After that, Manulov went into the room.

Looking at Manulov, (Paris) said: He is tall and slim. That's good. But he is too young.

Mrs. H smiled while saying: Making him look old is not difficult at all. Then, she sprinkled powder on Manulov's head while he sat on a chair looking confused.

Then she used make-up pencils to draw a beard and some wrinkles on Manulow's forehead and around the eyes, mouth, and cheeks. After speaking for a while to Manulov, Mrs. H suggested that he change his white shirt into a faded blue one for the shooting. Then the camera started rolling.

We watched the footage confiscated by the security force on our assignment to report this case. In the film, Manulov appeared at different angles with a room in the background decorated simply with a dark bamboo partition and small set of table and chairs.

The first scene had Manulov sitting at the table, flipping through old cartoon magazines. Next, Manulov was standing against the wall with his hands pressing an old magazine against his chest. From a distance, he looked like a prisoner holding a registration board with a number to his chest.

According to Nguyen Quang Thanh's statement, after this scene, possibly due to the realization of their adventurous work, the participants started to show their fear. The first was the Russian sailor.

On the video, we see Manulov turning to the camera and saying a lot about something. It is possible that he did not understand why a footage on the Vietnamese-Russian friendship could contain those ridiculous scenes.

Then, voices in argument were recorded, first of all, the voice of the cameramen, then the shrill voice of Mrs. H who said: why are you filming that much? That is enough. It is possible that at that time, Mrs. H also realized the adventurous nature of the game she was involved in.

After that, their work was discovered. The assitant manager of the Ba Son Hotel and the factory guards appeared. At first sight, the assistant manager immediately realized that Long Veng is Nguyen Quang Thanh, who is wanted by the law for murder.

Thanh was immediately arrested. All papers of the group were seized. The four Cambodians quickly walked off the scene unnoticed by the Ba Son factory cadres. Manulov was allowed to return to his ship. The security force confiscated material evidence, including the unfinished footage and warrants of arrest for the Cambodians for their illegal activities.

In recent years, many types of touts, mainly for the purpose of profit, have used different tricks to make fake films of live American prisoners of war in Vietnam. But those fake films have been promptly discovered.

Since 2 July, when President Clinton decided to unblock IMF from lending money to Vietnam, the forces opposing the normalizations of Vietnamese-U.S. ties believe they had to make up new evidence that needed to carry more weight than photographs. The dispatch of an American woman to Cambodia to coordinate the aforementioned filming is one of those efforts. After the fake photographs, it is possible that this is the first fake film on live American prisoners of war in Vietnam. But this has been stopped in time.

U.S. Chemical Company Licensed To Open Office

BK2609062693 Hanoi VNA in English 0557 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Sept. 26—Connel Bros, an American company trading in chemicals, has been licensed to open a representative office in Ho Chi Minh City after a 18-year break.

In the last two years, Connel Bros has been actively seeking business opportunities in Vietnam, becoming one of the first 35 companies allowed by the US Treasury Department to open representative offices in Vietnam and hire Vietnamese staff.

The local office will be run by Mr. Deac Jones, Indochina regional director.

Connel Bros has for years specialised in chemicals for textile, painting plastic, printing, and paper industries and agricultural production, consumer goods, foods, machinery and equipment. It has over 200 representative offices worldwide.

In the long run, Connel Bros will cooperate with Vietnam in producing chemicals for export to American and Asian markets.

In the last nine months, about 100 US companies have sent teams to Vietnam to explore investment and business opportunities. They included Mobil, Chevron, IBM, General Electric, General Motors, Chrysler, Boeing, City Bank, Bank of America and American Express.

IMF To Provide Hanoi With $236-Million Loan

BK2409091093 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] The International Monetary Fund is prepared to unfreeze loans to Vietnam and Cambodia in early October. The decision will follow a settlement of these countries' debts to the IMF at the creditors' meeting to be held in Washington later this month. The IMF will initially provide Vietnam and Cambodia with loans of about 236 million dollars and about 180 million dollars respectively.

Resumption of aid to Vietnam will be formally endorsed at the IMF executive meeting set for October 6th.

Science Delegation Visits Russia 16-22 Sep

BK2509140593 Hanoi VNA in English 1341 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Sept 25—A delegation of Vietnam's Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment led by Minister Professor Dang Huu paid a working visit to Russia from September 16-22.

The delegation had working sessions with senior officials of the Ministry of Science and Technical Policy. It visited a number of scientific institutions. The two sides held it necessary to push forward bilateral cooperation, particularly projects on technical transfer.

Party Leaders Debate Marxist-Leninist Program

BK2309090593 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] On 20-21 September in Hanoi, the Steering Committee for the Compilation of the National Standard Teaching Program for Subjects on Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought held roundtable talks under the theme "Marxism-Leninism in Our Era". Attending the talks were Comrades Dao Duy Tung, Nguyen Duc Binh, Nguyen Dinh Tu, Dang Xuan Ky, Ha Dang, experienced theoretical analysts, teaching cadres on Marxism-Leninism, and theorists from Central and Hanoi organs.

The participants contributed views on fundamental and urgent issues relating to the subject "Marxism-Leninism in Our Era" in order to help the steering committee to satisfactorily conduct their research for the compilation of a national standard teaching program. Through the program, we will reaffirm our belief and theoretical viewpoint that Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought are the foundation and guiding torch for the activities of the party and for each of us.

The participants also exchanged views on common and basic issues of Marxism-Leninism in order to enlist subjects on Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought to the national standard teaching program. They emphasized the urgency of the research work for the program and suggested that the party and state should provide appropriate funding for an acceleration of the research and compilation of this standard teaching program.

Prime Minister Meets Chairman of South Center

BK2409143993 Hanoi VNA in English 1429 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Sept. 24—The visiting chairman of the South Centre of the developing countries, Mr Junius K. Nyerere, met with Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet at the government office here this afternoon.

Chairman Nyerere has arrived here for an official visit at the invitation of Vice President Mrs Nguyen Thi Binh. His visit is aimed at inquiring into Vietnam's renovation policy and discussing with Vietnamese leaders on South-South cooperation.

Speaking to his guest Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet highly praised Chairman Nyerere's persistent struggle for the right to self-determination, equality and humanity among nations in line with the non-aligned policy, and for his support to Vietnam when he was president of Tanzania. Prime Minister Kiet stressed that now as in the past Vietnam is always attached to the non-aligned movement. Vietnam welcomes and supports the guiding principle of cooperation and development of the South Centre. He noted that the South Centre is serving as a bridge to link Vietnam with other developing countries. He further said that Vietnam cooperates with the centre for the interest of itself and of the region, for peace, friendship, stability, cooperation and development.

For his part, Chairman Nyerere wished that with the creative policy of renovation of the Vietnamese state, the Vietnamese people would once more gain great achievement in national construction, and make more contributions to the South-South cooperation.

Interior Minister Attends Police School Ceremony

BK2409022493 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] The People's Police University held a ceremony on the morning of 22 September to review the 1992-93 academic year and open the new year 1993-94. Comrade Bui Thien Ngo, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of Interior Affairs; and many leading comrades of the People's Police General Department and organs within the Interior Affairs Ministry were among the attendants.

In his report, the director of the academy stressed that in the 1992-93 school year all difficulties were overcome and competent police officers with good character were trained excellently to perform their duties to protect national security and to maintain social order and safety. The academy has continously improved and diversified the training program, combined theory with experimental practices, standardized the teaching and learning curriculum, maintained good order and discipline, perfected regulations, and gradually brought management structure into good order.

For the new academic year, the People's Police Academy is carrying out practical measures to continue its improvement in training quality, particularly in the improvement of the curriculum and to keep it up-to-date with changes in the new situation. The academy also plans to upgrade its program to higher postgraduate levels in order to provide training for master and PhD degree students in later years.

Minister Explains Policy on Tree Exploitation

BK2409142193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Interview with Forestry Minister Nguyen Quang Ha by unidentified radio correspondent about government directive No. 462 TTG on strict control of wood exploitation, transportation, and exportation; place and date not given—recorded]

[Summary] [Correspondent] "Dear Comrade Minister, on 11 September 1993, the prime minister issued directive No. 462 TTG on strict control of tree exploitation, transportation, and exportation. Could you tell us if there is anything new in this directive and whether it is different from other government documents on the management, protection, and exploitation of forestry products.

[Nguyen Quang Ha] "As everybody knows, in 1991 the National Assembly passed the Law on Management, Protection, and Development of Forests. On 19 March 1992, the chairman of the Council of Ministers, now the prime minister, issued Directive No. 90 on the implementation of urgent measures to stop deforestation. The directive was later followed by government message No. 69 and directive No. 283. But the deforestation and illegal timber import and export were not stopped."

On 11 September 1993, the prime minister issued directive No. 462 which clearly regulates issues relating to the strict control of tree exploitation, transportation, and exportation. This directive states the need to create jobs for ethnic people in mountainous areas to prevent them from slash-and-burn cultivation and deforestation. It adjusts other government documents on import- export regulations and reassesses regulations and guidelines on wood import and export. It also regulates tree transportation and processing, and it defines strict punishment for illegal wood import and export.

[Correspondent] "We see that this directive concretely and strictly regulates the transportation, transit, and import of wood; and the processing, import, and export of forestry products. Can you further clarify these important contents?"

[Nguyen Quang Ha] The directive No. 462 requests government ministries and components and people's committees at all levels to evaluate legal government documents relating to the management, exploitation, and transportation of trees before submitting them to the government for amendments. It instructs the Forestry Ministry to clearly define the boundaries of special purpose forests such as national parks, nature preservation areas, and protected forests and to impose a strict ban on tree exploitation in these places. It urges all responsible organs and sectors to submit their concrete suggestions on wood export categories.

The directive gives clear instructions on wood processing for export and sets up concrete regulations for the transit of wood via Vietnam from Cambodia and Laos to prevent the illegal export of Vietnamese wood. It also outlines conditions for importing wood into Vietnam.

Directive No. 462 empowers the Ministry of Communications and Transportation and other related departments to issue regulations on wood transport.

[Correspondent] "Strict implementation of this directive requires the work of many sectors. We would like to know what the Forestry Ministry will do to manage exploitation and processing of wood and forestry products for export?"

[Nguyen Quang Ha] We have decided that from 1994, the exploitation of any forest must be approved by a committee. Then the committee will decide on the amount of wood that can be produced. Together with the State Planning Commission, we will suggest a production target for 1994. In this target, we will set up figures of wood for export for each province, locality, and sector.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Viewers May Have French, English Pay-TV 'Soon'

BK2409090893 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Vietnam may have pay-TV soon. It is reported that a channel dubbed Magic TV will broadcast programs with an emphasis on entertainment and culture. They will be in French and English with Vietnamese subtitles. Programs in Vietnamese are planned for a later stage.